

"...That my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

- John 15/11 -

I am Sr. Sangeetha Udumala. I belong to Catechist Sisters of St. Ann. I believe that God began fashion my heart to enter religious life long before I was aware. As a young child the Lord blessed me with loving parents, who raised me in a good, faith-filled Catholic home. My two siblings and I had a special unique childhood. At this time the thought of religious life never entered my mind. Although, for as long as I can remember, God has been preparing the way. I spent lots of time speaking to the Lord in prayer. Putting my trust in Him strengthened my faith. As He held me close, our relationship grew. After many months of ignoring the Lord's invitation I went to Holy Mass one Sunday morning. During the Mass I felt an overwhelming sense of peace. My heart knew that I was loved, and I was totally taken by the Lord.

During my college days I was happy, life was good. I enjoyed spending time with my friends and family, but still something was missing. In the spring I had the opportunity to attend a retreat in Muthangi. At the retreat I had a powerful prayer experience with the Blessed Virgin Mary the mother of Jesus. After my graduation, when I was doing my master's degree in physics, there I was inspired by my Principal Rev. Sr. Nirmala Udumala witnessing life, she is so prayerful, loving, committed and dedicated. She has been observing me from long back and one day when I was alone with the lord in the college chapel, she came and asked me to think about religious life. I spent more time with the lord to know about my call and how to determine if the spiritual movements within me came from God. Through the close encounter with the sisters, I began to believe that I too was called to religious life. I joined in religious life 2006, I did my first commitment in the year 2009 and permanent vows as the member of catechist sisters of St. Ann in the year 2016. As a sister of Catechist sisters of St. Ann, I am part of something bigger than myself and I choose to follow the Lord, day by day. Saying "yes", to God is not always easy but with His Grace all is possible. As a sister I have had many wonderful opportunities to lead others closer to Jesus Christ by teaching, by working with the youth, and by volunteering with the poor. In addition, I have come to see that God wants my happiness and to use my gifts/talents in a way that will help me and others. For the past few years, I have had the joy of being a teacher and as principal of a school.

To be chosen to serve as a missionary and educator in a Precious foreign land United States of America is a sacred privilege that I humbly embrace. This journey is undoubtedly a blessing, a divine calling within my vocation, and a mission within a mission. It is a testament to God's trust in my commitment to follow His call and to share His love and teachings with those I will encounter on this new path. As I step into the role of a teacher, I am filled with excitement and a sense of responsibility. I see this as an opportunity to nurture young minds and hearts, to instill values of compassion, kindness, and faith in the next generation. Though I may encounter challenges and adjustments in this new environment, I know that God's guiding presence and the support of my religious community will be my constant companions. The foundation of my faith and the Charism of my Congregation Catechist Sisters of St. Ann will guide me as I navigate the complexities of being a missionary and an educator. The call to teach is an extension of my calling as a religious nun, and it reaffirms my commitment to living out the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in service to others. I am called to be a humble instrument of God's love, seeking to make a positive difference in the lives of my students, their families, and the wider Parish community.

This missionary and teaching journey is an opportunity for personal and spiritual growth. It challenges me to be open to learning from others, to adapt to new customs and cultures, and to embrace the diversity of God's children. I carry with me the prayers and well-wishes of my religious community and all those who support and believe in this mission. Their encouragement and love inspire me to face any challenges with courage and resilience.

As I embark on this new chapter of my life, I place my trust in God's providence and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in every step I take. I pray that the light of Christ may shine through me, illuminating the hearts of those I teach and serve.

To be a missionary and teacher in the USA is a precious gift and an extraordinary opportunity. I am ready to answer this call within a call with love, dedication, and a deep sense of gratitude for the path God has laid before me.

First and foremost, I open my heart and thank almighty God for this new Mission, I am grateful to Bishop Ronald Hicks, Fr. John Balluff Episcopal Vicar of clergy, Fr. Gregor Gorsic pastor of St. Matthew's Parish Elementary School for inviting me to render my services in the Diocese of

Joliet, Chicago, USA. I thank Rev. Sr. Japamala Vatti The Superior General and her Councilors, Sr. Nirmala Udumala the former Provincial Superior, Rev. Sr. Margaret Kommareddy The Provincial Superior and her Councilors for selecting me as a missionary.

In Christ's love and in the spirit of mission and education, I embrace this journey with joy and humility.