

THE NEWNESS OF BEING A BRIDGETTINE SISTER

BANGALORE



1. On-going Freshness in Being a Bridgettine sister

- *There is a joy in being a daughter of St. Bridget and Mother Elizabeth
- * How is that joy and pride being manifested in your life?

2. Our Motivation is St. Bridget and Mother Elizabeth

- * Women free with God's freedom and still in bondage to love.
- * Women according to God's heart
 - * Who could go anywhere and detached from everything
- Women open to the church and to the world.

A patron saint of Europe and Mystic of the North- St. Birgitta



3. Courage of St. Bridget

- * When the Congregation was dispersed and almost had died it came back to life due to her tireless efforts.
- * Next few years many new shoots under the Bridgettine spirituality progressed well and the sisters had a big jump.
- * St. Bridget and Elizabeth travelled far and wide to spread the congregation.
- * Her constant touch with her spiritual director helped her to move forward courageously. She confronted the Popes, bishops and priests and challenged them to return to the origins.

Righteous Among the Nations St. Maria Elizabeth Hesselblad



4. Courage of Mother M.Elizabeth

- *On June 4th 1870 the child Maria was born and was placed on a cold stone.
- This child needs to be hardened in time. She will have to go through great trials in her life” said the old nurse..
- * Fr. Hagen’s first letter to Elizabeth on sept 3, 1902 is a beautiful one (p.33)
- * “If my step is hard for you to understand, my dear ones, it must nevertheless be a joy to you that I am happier in my soul, than any Queen on earth”. (before her vows).
- The gray habit fascinated Mother Elizabeth. She wanted to live and die as a child of St. Birgitta.(Read p.70 for the dream of Mother Elizabeth).

5. Courage of ...

- * “St. Birgitta was constantly by my side and that I belonged to her. It was a very difficult and painful position I was in. The house was my Mother’s but there was no place for me”
- (A moving account of her predicament in the Carmelites house).
- Elizabeth collected the copy of the old Breviary; managed to trace the original Rule; obtained the Rule and Constitutions from Holland and Spain; received appreciation and congratulations from many for reviving the Bridgettine order.
- “I always strove to lead the life of the true Birgittine as much as it was possible for one to do alone”. (Mother Elizabeth).

6. THE BRIDGETTINE SUCCESSES

- * Both the founders came from good Christian background.

Both of them were tolerant towards others' opinions and more open. Both are quite popular in the churches.

- * Courage and piety of the elderly and sick Bridgettine sisters

- * Presence in new territories and countries.

- * Openness to new understanding of Ecumenism and unity of the church

- * New types of membership

- * Openness to hospitality and welcome

7.ON-GOING FRESHNESS

- * Bridgettine spirituality is inviting us to refresh ourselves.
- * The thirst for spirituality is found everywhere today.
- * Desire for intense contemplative experience is increasing today.
- * The Church has had great appreciation for St. Bridget and Mother Elizabeth.
- * Relevance and usefulness of Bridgettine spirituality in the world is felt today. (Unity, Reconciliation, love, sacrifice, contemplation, hospitality etc)

8. Ecumenism is a “Movement for Evangelization”

- * The charism that began in St. Bridget has transcended her and moved to Mother Elizabeth and has swelled into a ‘movement’ with many branches.
- * We have to look at the influence of what is known as “Bridgettine Spirituality”.
- * You are happy inheritors of this movement.
- * This vision gives us greater enthusiasm to further energize this movement. The movement is still growing.

10. THE LIVING HERITAGE

- * The Bridgettine sisters are the living heritage of St. Bridget and Mother Elizabeth. (The elderly sisters, the sick)
- * You have enriched the Bridgettine heritage in bringing it to so many different cultures – Italian, Indian, British, American etc.
- * You have the versatility to settle in any culture and offer hospitality.
- * You desire for love, sacrifice and Unity.
- * You are close to the people and available to the people.
- * You are witnessing to the contemplative dimension of life.

11. An Appraisal

- * Give an Evaluation of the on-going freshness of being a Bridgettine in your Delegation.
- * Suggest ways to inculturate Mother Elizabeth better and interpret in our context.
- * What are the anti-Bridgettine 'traits' among us Bridgettines?

12. Some feed back from others....

***What do others say and speak about you?**



THE END