



**Wednesday, July 22, 2020
Feast of St. Mary Magdalene
Vatican City**

It is with great joy that I write to my dear St. Mary's Parish Family to announce that I have been admitted to profess my final vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and Marian slavery as a consecrated religious sister in the Institute "Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará." The date has been set for Monday, September 14, 2020. If Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, the Holy Mass and profession will take place at 2 PM at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. If not, the Holy Mass and profession will still take place elsewhere. I humbly ask for your prayers leading up to and following "the big day."

A big THANK YOU to my parents, Dr. Dan and Patty Johnson, who brought me to the waters of baptism here at St. Mary's 32.5 years ago, sent me to be formed at St. Mary's grade school and St. Joseph's High School, and showed me what sacrificial love is all about.

Thanks also to Fr. Roman, deacons Ron, Jim and Wilson for living out their vocations to serve the Church and all of God's people—I consider myself blessed to have learned from your example.

Acknowledgement and much gratitude, as well, go out to Theresa Setter and Jamie Kelnhofer who gave me a head start on singing in the choir and playing the organ in the convent.

To all of you who knew me as Laura Johnson the altar server, the greeter, the blue nun, granddaughter of Dr. Warren and Mary Johnson, and to all of you parishioners who I have yet to meet, thank you for living out God's call for your life and striving each day to attain holiness.

May our Blessed Mother, patroness of our parish and Queen of all Hearts, enflame us with zeal for the work ahead.

**In Jesus through Mary's fiat,
Sr. María Virgen Oyente, SSVM**