

# Who are you?

By Jacqueline Hilmi Fahim

My beloved, my mother, my sister.... the priest's wife, it is my great pleasure to come to you with love, respect and adoration to your person, and the calling directed to you. Priesthood is a very special calling and this call had been directed specifically and in particular to you, who were one person, by the divine command, with the priest “and the two shall become one flesh, so then they are no longer two, but one flesh”. (Mark 10:8)

The priest's wife has a very special calling that requires particular specifications and personal capabilities, and if the marital life has special requirements in order to succeed and bear the fruit of holy home (small church), there is no doubt that these requirements are duplicated when it becomes a priest's family.

So, If the life is not adoring for Christ and its fundamental objective is to gain souls for kingdom of heaven and being ideal is a habit and way of life, we will be surprised that the life has been turned into suffocating restrictions and fatal fate for the priest's wife and her effort is in vain .....

There is no house or life without problems, but when we are talking about the family of the priest, the family's problems smell and taste unpalatable where things are taking another dimension if it is not treated in complete secrecy and wisdom.

As the holy bible says, strike the shepherd, the parish will dissipate. The seriousness of the priesthood is in being that model and example for the parish. And from this point, it is clear the pressure on the priest's wife. She is required for much more to let the people see her and appreciate her earthly father, her husband the priest, and worship her heavenly father... otherwise it will be an obstacle and cause of insulting both.

One of the fathers says that, if the priest bears the concerns of the church and the parish, his wife is bearing him and his loads together. So either she becomes a

blessing, motive for the service and giving or to be another obstacle and burden on his shoulder obstructs his steps and limits his giving.

And another one says that if the priest's wife is not a spiritual person carrying the cross with him, she herself becomes a cross for the priest to carry, may God help the church that holds both of them as the church is the only one who pays the price.

And when we talk about the priest's wife, it will not be different that much when we talk about any other Christian wife, she is also the daughter of the King and the High Priest, our Lord Jesus Christ and is called to carry His cross and preaching with His holy name. But the words for the priest's wife are much more powerful, accurate and urgent as it is her responsibility and obligation. As our teacher Paul the Apostle said "For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!" (1 Co 9: 16), it is expected from her much more. But any other wife what is required from her is voluntarily for Love and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dr. Nabil Nasri said, the priest's wife has a reward the same as the priest as said by the Prophet David "But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike." (1 Samuel 30:24 ) which gives motivation and great incentive for tolerating that cross if it is not only about love for Christ but also for taking the prize as St. Paul the Apostle said "Run in such a way that you may obtain it.....an imperishable crown." (1 Co 9:24 \_25)