



Claire Ouedraogo
Sister Hospitaller of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Josefina 2019

Province of France



My name is Claire Ouedraogo and I am from Burkina Faso. I was born into a Christian family and I am the eldest of three sisters. Thanks to my parents, I grew up following the principles of faith, praying, and getting involved in our community's activities. At that time, our parish was far from our home, but we always went to participate in the mass for big holidays and made an annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Yagma. On ordinary Sundays, we held a liturgy without the Eucharist in our community where various Catholic parish movements participated. As a child, I was part of a youth group where I learned about the gift of saying yes to God.

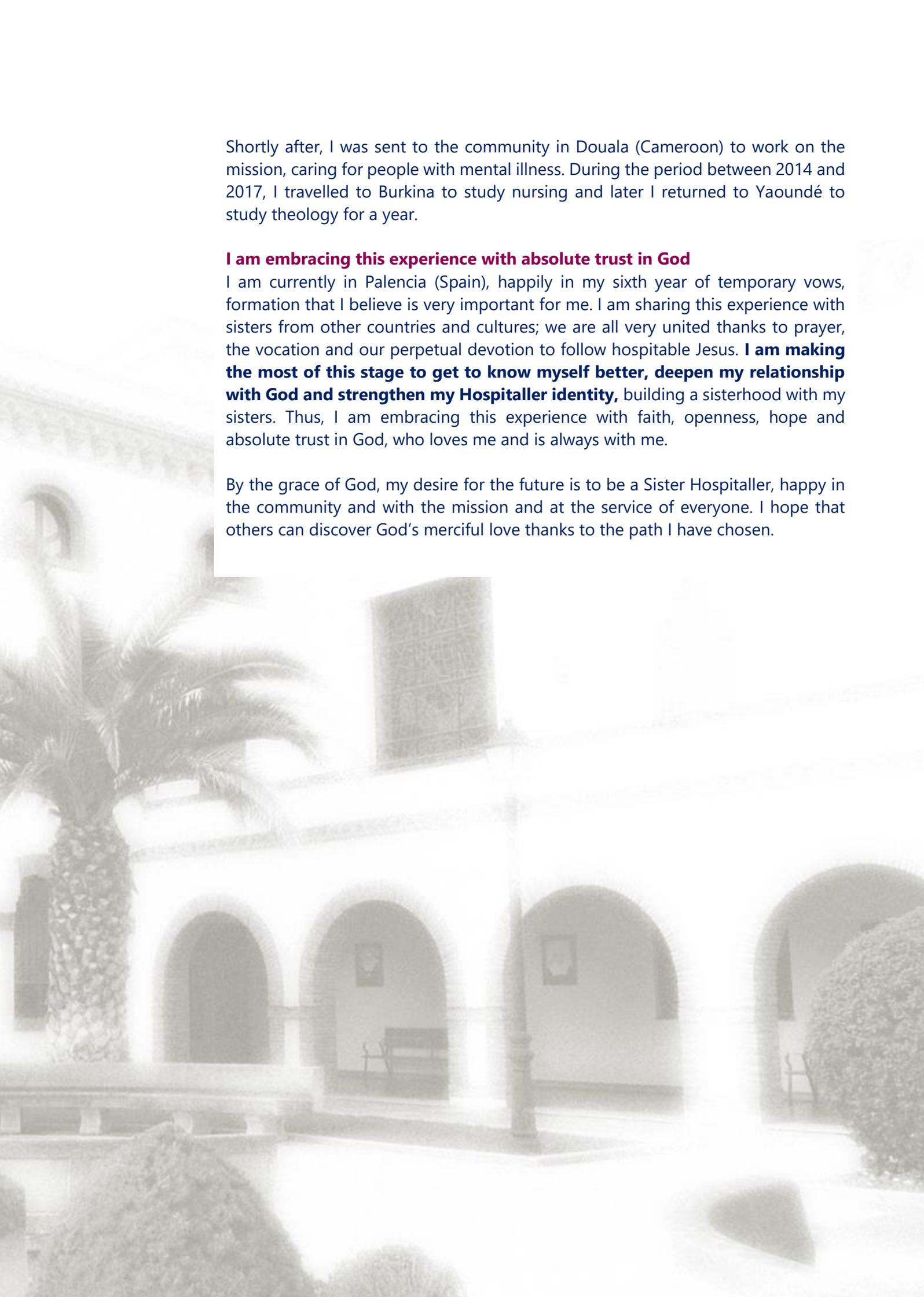
I knew that I wanted to dedicate my life to God

My desire to be a nun started when I was preparing to receive my First Communion at our parish. The nun who accompanied intrigued me: **her tenderness, kindness, hospitality and simplicity.** At that time, I knew that I wanted to follow her example and dedicate my life to God, so I let my parents know.

In 2004, a new parish opened its doors close to our home and I joined the chorus and vocation group the following year. During a retreat organised by the choir, a verse from the bible stuck with me: "...At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven" (Mt. 22:30). My desire to devote my life to God became stronger.

That is why I joined the parish's vocation group. It was there where I learned about the congregation of the Augustinian Hospitaller Sisters of the Immaculate Conception thanks to a sister who came every once in a while to introduce youths from the vocation group to her congregation. I was struck by her charisma and, above all, by her warm welcome, the service she provided the ill and how she cared for the people most in need. In 2006, I decided to go to Togo to have my first experience with the sisters, and three years later, I started the initial stage of formation to become a nun. I did my postulancy for two years in Togo and my novitiate for two years in Yaoundé (Cameroon). During this formation, **I experienced God's love through prayer and the sororal relationships between the sisters of the community.** This mission helped me to strengthen my Hospitaller identity, discovering the image of Jesus in each ill person who asked for my help.

On 7 September 2013, I took my first profession vows in Yaoundé. That day I was thrilled to see my dream come true and to be able to offer my life to Jesus.



Shortly after, I was sent to the community in Douala (Cameroon) to work on the mission, caring for people with mental illness. During the period between 2014 and 2017, I travelled to Burkina to study nursing and later I returned to Yaoundé to study theology for a year.

I am embracing this experience with absolute trust in God

I am currently in Palencia (Spain), happily in my sixth year of temporary vows, formation that I believe is very important for me. I am sharing this experience with sisters from other countries and cultures; we are all very united thanks to prayer, the vocation and our perpetual devotion to follow hospitable Jesus. **I am making the most of this stage to get to know myself better, deepen my relationship with God and strengthen my Hospitaller identity,** building a sisterhood with my sisters. Thus, I am embracing this experience with faith, openness, hope and absolute trust in God, who loves me and is always with me.

By the grace of God, my desire for the future is to be a Sister Hospitaller, happy in the community and with the mission and at the service of everyone. I hope that others can discover God's merciful love thanks to the path I have chosen.