

Sisters of the Common Life
Amy Carmichael

Born in the late 1860's, Amy became a missionary to India in her early adult life and devoted it to the saving of little girls from temple prostitution by establishing an orphanage. In the early 1900's, Amy realized she needed spiritual partners and began a search for sisters in Christ to come along side with like-mindedness.

The year 1916 Amy gathered seven women inspired by "The Imitation of Christ" by Thomas 'a Kempis who drew much of his inspiration from the other holy brothers in his own order, a lay group with no vows. The brothers strived to imitate the lives of Christ and the apostles and lived in a community that shared food and shelter. They were not to live apart from the world like monks. They worked as common men during the day, consequently their name: "Brothers of the Common Life."

Thus today we launch the "Sisters of the Common Life" stated Amy. The sisters constantly reminded themselves that "The Cross is the attraction" and that they had a creed of sorts:

My Vow:

Whatsoever Thou sayest unto me, by Thy grace I will do it.

My Constraint:

Thy love, O Christ, my Lord.

My Confidence:

Thou art able to keep that which I have committed unto Thee.

My Joy:

To do Thy will, O God.

My Discipline:

That which I would not choose, but which Thy love appoints.

My Prayer:

Conform my will to thine.

My Motto:

Love to live; live to love.

My Portion:

The Lord is the portion of mine inheritance.

Copied from Amy Carmichael: A Life Abandoned to God