

Euphrasia - The Musical: Through the Eyes of 10 Young Ladies

On the evening of 26th Apr 2019, a group of ten women, each with their own motivations, took an overnight bus trip from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. All were united by one purpose i.e. to catch Euphrasia - The Musical at Kuala Lumpur Performing Arts Centre over the weekend.

Led by 4 sisters in various stages of initial formation, 3 ladies from the Women of God group, 2 staff and 1 lay mission partner took the 6-hour bus trip. The Women of God was started by the Good Shepherd Sisters, Singapore to gather ladies who would like to discern their vocations and to learn more about the Congregation of the Good Shepherd.

From Instagram & Facebook pages of the Malaysian counterparts and other WhatsApp chatgroups, each person found out via different channels that show the reach of the Musical and how God can call each person in vastly different ways. Even the conception of the trip was guided by the hand of God. Everyone's availability was not lining up. We were prepared either to split up or for the trip to not happen. Yet, everything eventually fell into place and we managed to make it for the trip.



Everyone was really looking forward to the prospect of having a great time watching the musical, to get a better understanding of the life of St Mary Euphrasia and being surprised by what God has to speak to each one through it. In general, there was a hope to be inspired by the story and to see the spirit of Mother Foundress being brought to life in the form of a musical. Of course, there was also great anticipation for a good time of fellowship.

The young Sisters in formation were looking to see how St Mary Euphrasia would inspire the enquirers. At the same, they hope to reignite the zeal in themselves for the Mission in which they are called. Their hope was also to be inspired to continue in mission and be renewed in spirit and strength. In short, that all who watch the musical may be inspired.



The musical certainly didn't disappoint. It is wonderful to see how God spoke to each woman differently during this trip. After the musical, all were busy discussing their favourite scene. For some, the greatest moments of inspiration occurred during the musical; for others, it was other aspects of the trip that struck them. Here are some quotes on their takeaways from this experience.

Sophia (Enquirer): What struck me from the musical was this line said by St John Eudes "Faith can be a scary thing." It spoke directly to me at where I am in my life and gave me much to ponder. After watching the musical, this was what I gathered: Anyone can do good, but to consistently do good even in the face of adversity, and rejection requires a deep faith and trust in the Lord.

Sharon (Enquirer): "Come to me all you who labour and I will give you rest." That was the Gospel for Monday. Visiting the shelter and convent on the morning of the last day was the highlight of the trip for me. Despite busyness due to the musical, the life at shelter and convent goes on. Everyone is still busy. Yet despite all of this, there was an overall sense of hope and peace in the women at the shelter and in the convent. It reminded me that yes, it is still the Good Shepherd who will give us rest.

At The Convent @ Madonna Heights



Adeline (Enquirer): Fr Jovita once said, "If you want to go fast, walk alone. If you want to go far, walk together." Through this trip, I realised the importance of journeying together with support of a community; we are not alone.

Michelle (Lay Mission Partner, Ex-Staff of Marymount Centre): What touched me most is how we all came together for this musical despite our different roles and vocations within the mission. Ex-staff, current staff, sisters, volunteers, discerners. The beauty of the Good Shepherd mission is this: you don't have to be a religious sister or a staff to serve. I'm really touched by how the musical captured very much the essence of the spirit of St Mary Euphrasia. In our own ways, we are all fulfilling St Mary Euphrasia's vision of touching, uplifting and empowering. One person at a time, one day at a time...!

Rowena (Staff, Winner of Chapter Logo Design): The musical was amazing including the characters, music and orchestra. I loved the last scene "The Dying of St Mary Euphrasia" where I was so touched that I cried! What struck me was also the song "Go Out and Do Something Good." The musical showed me how lucky we are to have St Mary Euphrasia who teaches us to persist in doing good, to help those who are in need despite all kinds of challenges and difficulties.

Ai-Vi (Staff, Winner of Chapter Logo Design): I had the pleasure and honour to be able to watch the musical. It was a great experience. The performers portrayed their roles very well. What touched me most was the scene where many closest to her passed away. She was down but undeterred in her mission. I also enjoyed the part when St Mary Euphrasia met her parents in the afterlife. It was a moment where all were very proud of her accomplishments and resilience despite all the chaos in her life. Overall, I give it 5 thumbs up!

Dionne (Pre-Novice): What struck me most during this trip was a quick catch up with an old friend. It really brought me to the heart of my vocation when her son exclaimed, "Jesus is most powerful!"

Sr Paula (Novice): This trip showed me that God is in control of everything. Several times, our schedule for the trip did not turn out as planned. Yet the journey went well despite the initial setbacks.

Sr Teresa (Temporary Professed): "You, me, we can work together... yes, one thing at a time." The finale song of the musical has been playing unceasingly in my mind.

The spirit of St Mary Euphrasia is well-portrayed and is strongly felt throughout the musical. I feel as though Mother Foundress has spoken personally to me in every scene. I am reminded that each one of us can play a significant part in bringing the message of Hope to others. I would never forget this experience which has rekindled the inner flame in me to serve the mission: be the light of the world and bring God's merciful love to those whom I encounter everyday.

"You, me, we can work together... yes, one thing at a time."

Sr Fiona (Temporary Professed): Whenever anyone brings up the life of Mother Foundress, what always hit home is the way Mother Foundress treated those under her care and those around her. She was clear in her intentions, creative in her ways, but most of all, tender and loving. She always inspires me and gets me to reflect how I can better serve those under our care.

Written BY: Sophia Tan, Singapore

7 May 2019