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“Receive me, O God, as you have promised, and I shall live. Do not disappoint me in my hope.”

Sister Jacqueline Leiter made final profession July 11, 2007.

For centuries women and men have professed their monastic promises with the words of the *Suscipe*. These words became central to my experience in my own monastic profession on July 11, 2007.

Amid the busyness of preparing for my monastic profession, I became aware that the important thing about monastic profession was not the promises I was making so much as the changes God was working within my heart. It was about being received in a new way by God and by the monastic community.

Our Benedictine promises are at the heart of our commitment and our expression of life. Obedience helps me be open to listening and following rather than remaining focused on my own will. Stability reminds me to be grounded and provides me with the soil in which to live and grow. Fidelity to the monastic way of life helps me to persevere on the journey and welcome the changes in my heart.

By myself, I really do not have the strength to live faithfully to these promises. But by leaning in to God and with the strength of the community, I am able to receive and be received. God sustains and strengthens me. Where I am weak, God is strong and holds me up. When I worry about challenges that face me in community and in my ministry, I am reminded of the words of the *Suscipe*, *receive me as you have promised*. In every situation, God’s faithfulness is abundant. This confidence strengthens me and frees me to say YES to what lies ahead, even if I am fearful of something new that is unclear at the time.

I am grateful for prayers and many other ways community, family, and friends have supported me in my monastic journey. I ask for your continued prayers on my journey and for other women who are being drawn to monastic life.