

Thesis Title : **Mary's *Kenotic* Life: the Prototype of the Consecrated Life
of the LCU Sisters**

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ABSTRACT

This thesis studies Mary's *kenotic* life (self-emptying) as the ideal of consecrated life led by the LCU Sisters, in the Thai Christian context. It is exceedingly meaningful and consequential to the Sisters in their self-emptying (*kenosis*) process, to be filled with the power of God. The life of Mary is the pattern of life for all Christians particularly for those who have committed their lives to follow Jesus single-heartedly. Mary, a humble Jewish woman, who trusted in Yahweh, was called to be the mother of the promised messiah. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1: 38), was the response of Mary to Yahweh's call. She was a woman of lively faith, unconditional love and trusting hope. Her total, constant, unqualified and absolute surrender to the Divine will in humility is the model for consecrated life.

This research shows how Mary is the highest ideal of the LCU Sisters in developing their feminine personality and in their unstinting personal self-giving of themselves to the co-sisters and the people of God at large. The persons committed to

God in His Church are known as “Religious.” They live a life of faith, hope and charity in the realization of God’s Kingdom within and its actualization on this earth. Consecrated life is a life in imitation of Mary to be sensitive to God’s presence in the world in the face of various challenges of such a life.

The vows, the LCU Sisters take, of obedience, virginity and poverty are in response to a radical renunciation, *kenosis*. The evangelical counsel is living the theological virtues of faith, hope and love in commitment to God and His people especially the *anawim*—the poor of Yahweh. Like Mary, the Sisters sustain their daily lives by immersing themselves in silent communion with God in prayer. Thus following in the footsteps of Mary, the Sisters fulfill the meaning of their lives “proclaiming with Mary the greatness of the Lord.”

