Here a tree is used to symbolize the mystical life and experiences of Mariam Thresia. The findings of this study reveal that Mariam Thresia started leading a mystical life in her early childhood. Fr. Joseph Vithayathil, her spiritual father has recorded that at the age of three and a half she had dedicated herself to God. In her tender age she was filled with intense love for God and she used to sacrifice her sleep and meditate for long hours on the passion of the Lord. The infused knowledge she displayed and the hard ascetical life she practised were extraordinary for a child of
that age. Hence one can assume that almost at the age of three and a half she experienced the mystical union with God. As she grew in age there was a deepening of the mystical union. She had active and passive prayer experiences all through her life. In the early stages of her life through acts of sacrifice and penance she underwent active purification. Later in her twenties for about ten years she had the very crucial period of her life. She underwent severe passive purification and it seems that she had the experience of spiritual marriage during this period. At the age of thirty eight she was more involved in the foundation of the congregation, and then her extraordinary experiences were not that common or made known in public. During the daytime she was left free for active works and humanitarian services. In the night time, especially during the season of Lent, she used to experience the stigmata and crucifixion through which she was physically identified with Christ the Crucified.

Our research on Mother Mariam Thresia’s mystical experience reveals that her life was interwoven with active and passive experiences of prayer and purifications together with apostolic activities all through her life. She was always in union with God and was confirmed in grace. Hence her mystical life can be symbolised in terms of the parts of a tree. The base of her mystical life was the heroic practice of theological virtues and these virtues took the shape of a tree. Her life was rooted in deep faith (the root of the tree), grew up in strong hope (trunk of the tree) and flourished in charity (branches, leaves and fruits).

Her life centred on the Crucified Christ is indicated by the circle in the centre of the tree. In the beginning stage of life she experienced more of active prayer and purifications. Towards the middle of her life the gradual growth in the mystical experience resulted in the change from the active into passive experiences in prayer life. This was a crucial period. This is indicated by the cross in the central portion of the tree.

Mother Mariam Thresia lived all the virtues in a heroic manner. She derived the strength to live the virtues by contemplating Christ the Crucified. This is indicated by the source of all the virtues from the centre, namely Christ the Crucified.
Mariam Thresia’s charitable life was the effect of her union with the Lord. This is indicated by the leaves and fruits of the tree. Her whole life was filled with the zeal to save souls. By visiting the families of the poor, sick and dying in order to help them and save their souls she went beyond the customs and conventions of the society. Such activities were unusual and unheard of in those days. Young girls were not allowed to go out of their houses and the nuns were confined to their convents. It was at this juncture Mother Mariam Thresia initiated the new apostolate, namely the Family Apostolate in the Church and the society. The family being the vital cell or nucleus of the society and also considered the domestic church (A.C.11), family apostolate can be considered the crown of all other apostolates. This is indicated by the caption ‘family apostolate’ written on the top of the tree. All her activities were in one way or other meant to bring peace and harmony in the families, to build up the Kingdom of God’s reign.

The consecrated life is in fact an experience of the love of the Son for the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit (V.C.21) Mariam Thresia who consecrated herself at the age of three and a half led a life centred on the Holy Trinity. She always did the will of God and identified herself with Christ the Crucified. She was filled with the infused wisdom imparted by the Holy Spirit who guided her all through the life. The triangle which encompasses the whole tree represents her life in the Holy Trinity.