



Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious Press Release

CMSWR Announces the Second Summer Education Course in Spanish “Spouses of Christ, Daughters of the Church” (2016)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) announced its plans to offer the summer course, “Spouses of Christ, Daughters of the Church” (*Esposas de Cristo, Hijas de la Iglesia*) in 2016. The two-week course of study will take place from June 27-July 8 at the Pax Christi Retreat Center in Corpus Christi, Texas for any Spanish-speaking women religious serving in the United States.

First held in 2015 as an initiative for the Year of Consecrated Life, the event provides a forum for ongoing intellectual formation, prayer, and community among Hispanic sisters from different congregations. This year’s course responds to the call of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy: “The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more...The Church is commissioned to announce the mercy of God, the beating heart of the Gospel, which in its own way must penetrate the heart and mind of every person” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 10, 12).

The event coordinator Mother Mary of Ephesus Baird, SSVM explained, “I am so grateful to have worked with the summer course last year in its beginnings. I am anticipating this year to be another opportunity for us to deepen our vocation as women religious, Spouses of Christ, whose very consecration is a participation in the mercy of the Father and the service of the Church.”

Comprised of lectures and discussions, the program engages the sisters in a study of the theology of mercy through the lens of St. John Paul II’s 1980 encyclical, *Dives in Misericordia* (“Rich in Mercy”). The material is supplemented by expositions on the vibrant examples of “women of mercy” found in the Bible and the history of the Church, as well as the writings of Pope Francis. Women religious of various congregations will be serving as instructors for the course, providing introductory talks and facilitating discussions. This course will be a communal experience of ongoing intellectual, theological, and spiritual formation, as promoted by *Perfectae Caritatis*, the Vatican II Decree on the Adaptation and Renewal of Religious Life: “Religious should strive during the whole course of their lives to perfect the culture they have received in matters spiritual and in arts and sciences” (18).

Sister Angelica Ramos, S. de M, participated in 2015 and describes the summer course as: “Very enriching...Something that helps us to grow in the love of the Church herself and our vocation: Spouses of Christ and Daughters of the Church. This title [of the course] impacted me greatly...remembering this revives the love of our own vocation and the fervor for serving others through the means of our religious consecration.”

The “Spouses of Christ, Daughters of the Church” course registration is open to all Spanish speaking women religious from across the country. Located in Washington, D.C., the CMSWR was founded in 1992 with the canonical approval of St. John Paul II. The sisters of the CMSWR communities represent over 120 communities nationwide with approximately 6,000 sisters. For more information visit: www.cmswr.org or e-mail EsposasdeCristo@cmswr.org.

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