

# CONSECRATA

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Fall 2022



## National Assembly 2022: *Living a Eucharistic Life*

by Mary Parker

The CMSWR National Assembly convened in St. Louis, Missouri from September 15-18 with the theme *Living a Eucharistic Life*. CMSWR chose this theme to complement the three-year National Eucharistic Revival that the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) began on the Feast Day of Corpus Christi in June.

In his opening address, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Christophe Pierre reminded the assembly that our current culture will be transformed by building a Eucharistic culture. This Eucharistic culture flourishes when we allow “every aspect of our lives to be touched by Christ’s love so that we may share that love with all those around us in every strata of society...”

Bishop Andrew Cozzens, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Evangelization and leader of the National Eucharistic Revival, highlighted the importance of religious life to the Eucharistic Revival. Religious sisters, because of their espousal to Christ, are important witnesses who help draw all people to encounter Christ and have a deeper union with Him. Bishop Cozzens said, “Jesus wants to live his paschal mystery again...in your heart and in mine.”

Father Dennis Gill from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia emphasized the necessity for consecrated religious to participate in Christ’s sacrifice on the cross to revitalize a Eucharistic culture. In his presentation, he said, “This union with Christ happens for the person in the consecrated life on the Cross.” Through participating in the sacrifice of the Cross, the consecrated religious bear fruit in their apostolates and help all the baptized.

This sacrifice is transfigured by love. In the closing address, Sister Miriam James Heidland, S.O.L.T. spoke on the power of the Eucharist to heal the consecrated heart. She explained, “Healing is an experience of God’s love that leads us to wholeness and communion.” God always wishes to give his heart to all, and it is through embracing Jesus’ heart that religious sisters can love themselves and others with tenderness and mercy.

Other speakers included Rachel Harkins Ullmann from the GIVEN Institute, Sister Stephanie Still, P.B.V.M. from the National Religious Retirement Office, and Sister Sharon Euart, R.S.M. from the Resource Center for Religious Institutes who offered opportunities for CMSWR member communities to work with their organizations.

CMSWR is also grateful for the presence of Paul McMahon from the Knights of Columbus and Sabrina Wong from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. These organizations have provided financial support for CMSWR’s ongoing formation programs and other initiatives.

Participants came away from the National Assembly prepared to participate in the National Eucharistic Revival as witnesses of Christ’s healing, redeeming, and evangelizing love.



# Message from Our Chairperson

by Mother Anna Grace Neenan, O.P.

Dear Friends,

Greetings in Our Lord Jesus Christ!

This summer and fall, our communities have responded, in various ways, to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' desire for us to participate in the three-year National Eucharistic Revival.

This National Eucharistic Revival is a marvelous opportunity for us to help those whom we serve to discover more deeply the love of Jesus, who continues to give Himself to us in such a profound and personal way in this sacrament. Both our Formators' Workshop this past spring and our National Assembly in September had Eucharistic themes, and each provided rich fruit for the sisters who were able to participate.

The National Eucharistic Revival is for us, as religious women, a profound call to a renewed devotion to the Blessed Sacrament – to center our entire lives more deeply in loving awareness of Jesus in His Eucharistic Presence. We can almost hear Him saying to us, as He did to the woman at the well, “If you only knew God’s gift (John 4:10)!” It is a call to spend time with Jesus before the Blessed Sacrament, in both personal and communal prayer; to know Him there; to let ourselves be loved by Him; to allow Him to love *in* us and *through* us.

It is the love of Christ that has gathered us together in each of our communities. Rooted in His sacrifice and sacramental presence, our consecrated lives are strengthened and daily renewed, grounded in His love. With much joy, we share with you those who have professed final vows in our member communities.

Each vocation is a precious gift, and we are profoundly grateful to God and to all those who have prayerfully and generously supported our lives as consecrated religious.

May the Lord invigorate us all with a zeal that is enlivened by His love. As we respond to the National Eucharistic Revival, may we seek to be Christ’s instruments to those with whom we live and serve, allowing Christ to say to them, through us, “If you only knew God’s gift!”

Sincerely in Christ,



Mother Anna Grace Neenan, O.P.  
Chairperson



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*Dominican Sisters of Mary,  
Mother of the Eucharist*



Sr. Katherine Rose  
Sullivan, OP  
*Dominican Sisters of Mary,  
Mother of the Eucharist*



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Brungardt, OP  
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Mother of the Eucharist*



Sr. Monica Marie  
Lynk, OP  
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Mother of the Eucharist*



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Kraemer, OP  
*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia*



Sr. Maria Beatriz  
Durao, OP  
*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia*



Sr. Maria Grace  
Thielman, OP  
*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia*



Sr. Mary Imelda  
Ohotnicky, OP  
*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia*



## Final Professions 2022



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*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia*



Sr. Mary Martin Linn, OP  
*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia*



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Slonkosky, OP  
*Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia*



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Heart of Jesus*



Sr. Mary Elizabeth Plante, ACJ  
*Handmaids of the  
Heart of Jesus*



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## Final Professions 2022



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*Sisters of Life*



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*Sisters of Life*



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Divine Grace*



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Church Miller, SSVM  
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Virgin of Matará*



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Roa, SSVM  
*Servants of the Lord and the  
Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Maria Madonna dei  
Poveri Julian, SSVM  
*Servants of the Lord and the  
Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Maria Regina  
Familiae Wilhelmi, SSVM  
*Servants of the Lord and the  
Virgin of the Matará*



Sr. Agnes Maria  
Kilonsky, TOR  
*Franciscan Sisters, TOR of  
Penance of the Sorrowful Mother*

## Formators' Workshop 2022: *Forming a Eucharistic Life*

by Sister M. Lissetta Gettinger, O.S.F.

The Eucharist invites us to step into the mystery of God's inner life! This sacrament was the focus of the 2022 Formators' Workshop titled, *Forming a Eucharistic Life*. What better theme could we have during this time of the National Eucharistic Revival?

The 2022 Workshop gathered once again at Malvern Retreat Center in Malvern, Pennsylvania. Mother Anna Grace Neenan, O.P. welcomed us, calling us to remember Canon 663, "The first and foremost duty of all religious is to be the contemplation of divine things and assiduous union with God in prayer." This is a call for us to live in constant adoration and thanksgiving. We had several presentations on how formators, in a particular way, help new generations of religious sisters live a Eucharistic life. Sister Regina Marie Gorman, O.C.D., Bishop Andrew Cozzens, and Father Dennis Gill each gave presentations. Sisters who participated in CMSWR's Santa Croce Program in Rome offered helpful reflections from their classes. Finally, a panel of seasoned formators answered an array of questions from the whole group.

I always leave the Formators' Workshop with new friends, new ideas, and a feeling of encouragement. The members of our communities must be formed for and by the Eucharist. To live a Eucharistic life is to live a given life. To give this gift in freedom we must help our young members internalize two Eucharistic truths: I am unconditionally loved and I am never alone. From this place, abiding with Christ in the heart of the Father, we can receive and give His life to a hungry world.



# Esposas de Cristo, Hijas de la Iglesia 2022: *¡Siempre Adelante!*

by Mother Revelación Castañeda, S.S.V.M.

The 2022 Esposas de Cristo course, for Spanish speaking sisters, was held from June 6-17 in the Mission San Antonio de Padua in Jolon, California. It was titled *Always Forward! The History of Hispanic Missionaries in the U.S.* This year's course explored the contribution of Spanish-speaking Catholic missionary priests and sisters to the Church in the United States over the past five hundred years.

Sister Martha Maria Gomez Chow, S.C.T.J.M. and Sister Caridad Sandoval, O.C.D. were the main presenters for the course. Sisters from the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará also assisted in teaching.

Dr. Julia Young from the Catholic University of America, historian of Catholicism in America, including migration from Mexico and Latin America, gave an overview of her studies on the "Mexican Exodus," which took place in the 1920s, due to persecution of the Catholic Church in Mexico. It significantly marked the cultural landscape of the Southwest in the United States. Unfortunately, this dark part of Mexican history is not taught in schools and is often distorted in history books!

Over the weekend, the sisters were able to visit four other missions founded by Saint Junipero Serra and his companions. The highlight was visiting the resting place of Saint Junipero Serra and praying at his tomb.

The sisters were very grateful for the opportunity to learn about the great labor and sacrifice of so many religious men and women who planted and nurtured the seeds of faith in the United States.



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## The Santa Croce Program: *Reflections from Rome*

by Sister Mary Gemma, T.O.R.

I am very grateful to participate in the second annual Santa Croce Program for superiors and formators. Returning home from Rome, I felt that I had received a great gift from my two weeks in Rome for my community, and I cannot wait to share these spiritual gifts with the novices and other sisters. I want to share these graces not only by my stories but also by the way I live my religious life.

I was inspired by the Santa Croce faculty's love for the Church, the Holy Father, and for holiness. I learned so much from the courses on canon law, fundraising, liturgy, and human sexuality. I was called on by the witness of the many saints, especially the martyrs, we encountered on our daily walking tours through Rome. For me, the whole experience was a sign of God's unexpected goodness. We were pleasantly surprised and touched to see Blessed Carlo Acutis's opened tomb on our day trip to Assisi. At a Wednesday papal audience, some of us were near a barrier and able to greet Pope Francis when he drove past in his popemobile!



My heart is especially filled with gratitude to Sister M. Regina Pacis, F.S.G.M. for her generosity in preparing the itinerary, leading our many miles of pilgrimage each day, sharing her wealth of knowledge, and caring for us so well. The program has been, and I am sure it will continue to be, a rich experience of our broader family of fellow religious sisters and of the universality of the Church.



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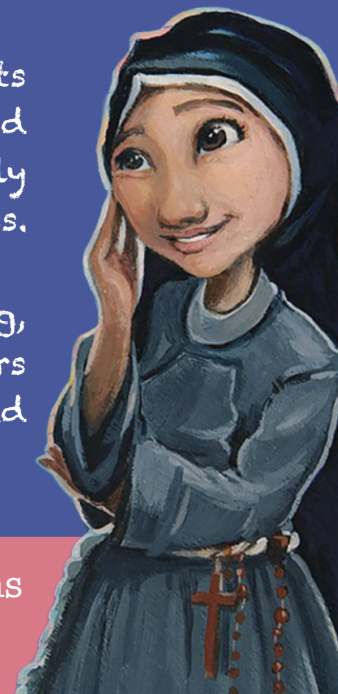
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## The Light in You by Mother Clare, CFR

The Light In You is the second book in Mother Clare's children's series, Little Convent in the Big City.

In this new adventure, Sr. Mary Andy visits her neighbor Antonio in his darkened New York City apartment, eventually persuading him to attend midnight Mass.

Both light-hearted and deeply moving, The Light in You shows religious sisters as Christ-bearers, bringing the light and joy of Jesus to human souls.



Now available to order for Christmas from Vianney Vocations  
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