

# Consecrata

A newsletter for member communities, friends, and supporters of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious



## FRANCISCAN SISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Left: The Sisters joined 5,000 others in a rally for religious freedom at the State Capital in Hartford, CT, to object to a proposed bill which would have removed bishops and priests from administrative and financial responsibility for parishes and religious corporations. Pictured: Sr. John Mary Sullivan, pre-postulant Anna Hamman, Sr. Patricia Glass, and Sr. Suzanne Gross. ■

## DOMINICAN SISTERS OF SAINT CECILIA

Right: From the oldest to the youngest! Postulants with the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia visit with Sr. Mary Jeanne who turned 100 years old on March 4, 2009. When asked for her words of wisdom about living the religious life, Sister says it all with one word: *Persevere!* Sr. Mary Jeanne entered religious life in 1931 and celebrated her Diamond Jubilee seventy-five years later, on December 30, 2006. ■



## PAX CHRISTI SISTERS

Above and Right: The Pax Christi Retreat House was blessed on February 2, 2009, in Michoacan, Mexico. The retreat house can accommodate 100 persons and is open year-round to priests, religious and laity. ■



## SISTERS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

On March 23, 2009, St. John Villa Academy on Staten Island began a year-long celebration of 85 years of service and educational ministry by the Sisters of St. John the Baptist. Specially honored for their combined 149 years of service to the academy since the 1930s are (seated) Sr. Placid Zinacola, C.S.JB., Sr. Ermelinda Cordasco, C.S.JB., and Sr. Helen Guerrieri, C.S.JB. Srs. Placid and Helen are also members of the Villa's first graduating class in 1936, and Sr. Ermelinda has taught in every decade since the school's establishment in 1932. This year of celebration marks the 160th anniversary of the birthday of congregation's founder, Bl. Alfonso Maria Fusco, on March 23, 1839. ■

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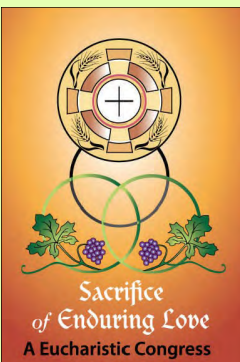
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UPCOMING  
EVENT :  
Eucharistic Con-  
gress  
September 11 - 12, 2009

With speakers on  
Priesthood,  
Religious Life,

## COUNCIL OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN THE UNITED STATES



Dear Friends,

A joyous and blessed month of the Sacred Heart! As we anticipate the feasts of the Sacred Heart and Corpus Christi in the Eucharist, and in gratitude for the many gifts Our Lord has given us, we would like to share with you some of the fruits and blessings of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR), which you have so graciously helped to support.

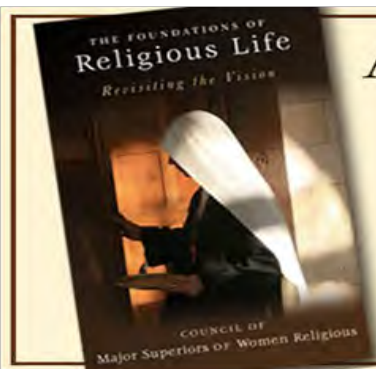
Preparations are underway for our upcoming Eucharistic Congress, *Sacrifice of Enduring Love*. The event will focus on the universal call to holiness in which all the baptized share. There will be presentations on the vocations of the priesthood, religious life, and marriage, since each is characterized by an irrevocable commitment, the identification with Christ in His obedience to the Father, and a complete gift of self in love. The Congress will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on September 11-12, 2009. We would be honored to have you present at the Congress and extend to you our sincere invitation — registration is free and open to all. To view the Congress agenda and to sign up, please see the CMSWR web site listed on the back of this newsletter.

Recently in May, a book compiled by the CMSWR, *The Foundations of Religious Life: Revisiting the Vision*, has been published by Ave Maria Press. The chapters include "A Special Consecration," "The Spousal Bond," "The Evangelical Counsels," "Communion in Community," and "Evangelical Mission," with the introduction and conclusion giving an historical background of religious life pre- and post-Vatican II. A notice about this book appears on the opposite page.

Finally, it is with great joy that we convey news of the upcoming canonization of the foundress of the Little Sisters of the Poor. In February, Pope Benedict XVI announced that Blessed Jeanne Jugan will be declared a saint on October 11, 2009. To quote Sister Maria Lourdes, I.s.p., in the official press release: "May the canonization of Jeanne Jugan reaffirm in the hearts of young women the call of God to reach out in love to the elderly poor!" For more information about the celebrations, please visit the website: [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org).

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Mother Mary Quentin Sheridan, R.S.M.  
Chairperson



## A Vision for the Future of Women Religious *from the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious*

As traditional orders of women religious continue to grow and attract larger numbers of young members, this timely collection of foundational articles explores the spiritual and theological basis of this renewal.



Above: The Franciscan Sisters, T.O.R., hosted a Christmas party at the LAMP soup kitchen in Steubenville, OH, for approximately 120 persons. Thanks to the generosity of local parishes, they were able to give each child two presents and each adult one. Pictured: Sr. Tina Marie helping one of the children decorate a Christmas cookie. ■

Visitors are always welcome at the St. Agnes Home in a suburb of St. Louis, MO, an elderly home owned and operated by the Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus. The Sisters are called to foster their interior life so as to fill their homes with joy and peace. Pictured: Sr. Eva Maria meets with the Boy Scouts who have come to bring joy to the residents. Their presence helps the Sisters make their homes true "homes away from home," rather than institutions. ■



### Service with Boy Scouts



### Celebrating 12 Years as a Community

The number 12 is an important number. We need only consider the role it plays in religion: the 12 tribes of Israel, and the 12 apostles. The 12 years of existence of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, also have their remarkable importance. They denote amazing growth — from four foundresses to

almost 21 times that number! In their 12th year they will complete a motherhouse, own and run two private schools in Michigan, and have sisters on six missions teaching in seven schools, located in five states outside of Michigan. A dozen years of grace mean the blessings of countless families, friends, and benefactors! ■



### 20 Years in Boston!

The Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, the religious order to which St. Faustina Kowalska belonged, recently celebrated its 20th anniversary of being in the Archdiocese of Boston, Massachusetts. At present, five perpetually professed sisters, two junior sisters, and two second-year novices make up this "little army" of Our Lady of Mercy. ■



Formators' Workshop 2009

Forty religious orders sent representatives to the CMSWR Formators' Workshop that met on March 24-27, 2009. Because the women's religious communities in the CMSWR share similar mission and goals, presentations at these workshops foster helpful approaches in conveying various charisms to novices and postulants. *Left:* Mother Celeste Marie Downes, S.J.W. (center). ■



*Above:* More than 90 sisters attended the workshop, hosted by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, TN. ■

The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita recently admitted three sisters to perpetual vows. *Right:* Sr. Mary Agnes and Sr. John Marie receive their wedding rings from Mother Marie Bernadette on June 21, 2008, as a sign of their perpetual espousal to Christ. *Far right:* Sr. Mary Grace Lorg is congratulated by celebrant Bishop Michael Jackels after her profession on January 23, 2009. ■



Professions of Vows



*Above and Right:* Six sisters of the Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal profess vows on the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, in Bronx, NY. ■

*Right:* On February 22, 2009, The Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church, celebrated the Perpetual Profession of Vows of Sr. Mary Faustina Nath. The principal celebrant was Bishop Michael Cote of the Diocese of Norwich, CT. ■

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CARMELITE SISTERS OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF LOS ANGELES

Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles participate in the Hayden 5K run, a fundraiser for one of their child care apostolates. ■



COUNCIL OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



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