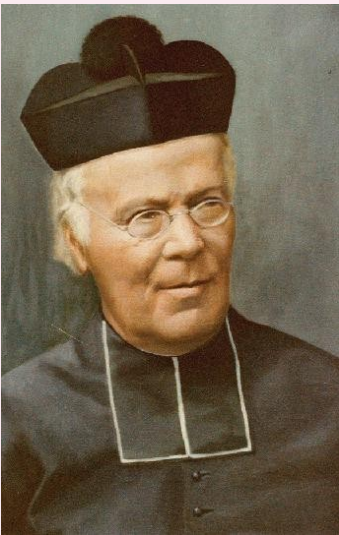


# CONSECRATA

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

## Beatified and Canonized

*Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious celebrates new saints and blessed from member communities*



**Venerable Louis Brisson**  
(soon to be **Blessed**)

As director of the Catholic Association of St. Francis de Sales, Fr. Brisson established four boarding schools, where young female factory workers would be kept safe and would grow in their religious

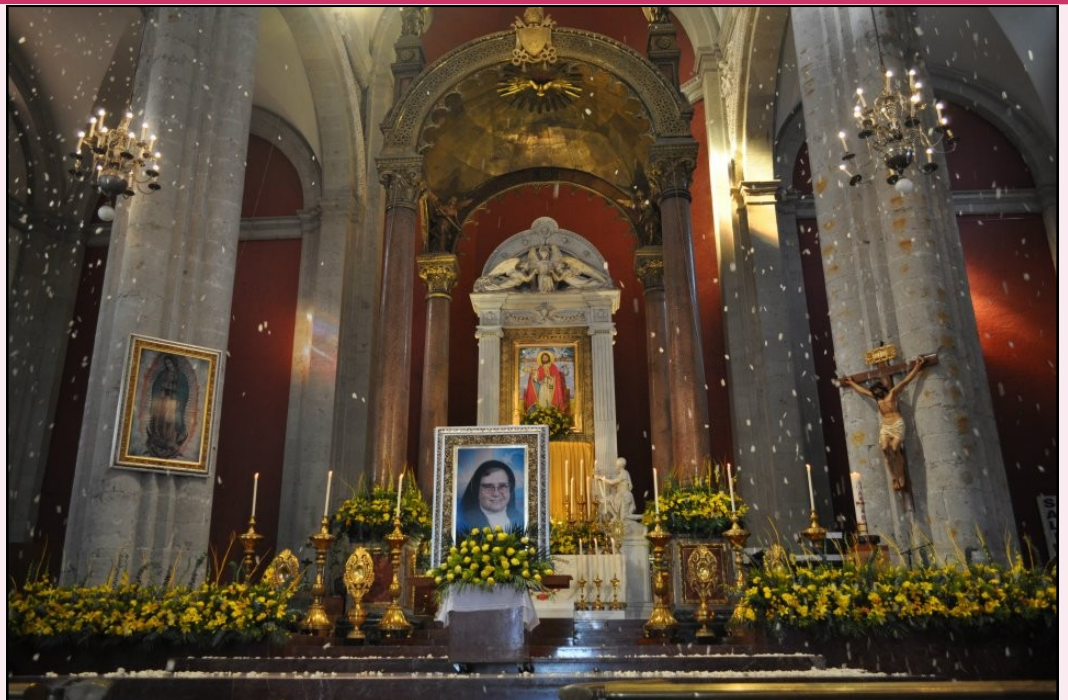
education. This work would lead to the foundation of the Oblate Sisters, with St. Leonie de Sales Aviat, in 1868. ... Personally and professionally, Fr. Brisson suffered the persecutions of the French Revolution, which forced the expulsion of his religious orders and the dissolution of their property. Still, his faith was unwavering: "If everything seems lost," he said, "and everyone has already surrendered his hope, the Lord will show His might and His influence. Then it will become clear to all that the decision lies only in His hands and we are capable of nothing." — *Saleisan Center web site, "Salesian Patrons"*

In this issue we celebrate the purpose of religious life: sanctity. Each of the saints or blessed in these pages was recently beatified or canonized. Their beatification or canonization is a source of encouragement for all of us in the Church on earth, and especially their local communities of religious and laity alike.

### **Blessed Maria Ines Teresa of the Blessed Sacrament**

"Mother Ines will be known by many souls who wish to follow the simple way of Jesus' Gospel with a deep love for God and for all souls. In simplicity, a joyful daily self-surrender, and faith and trust in God and the Most Holy Virgin of Guadalupe. Mother Ines brings us the paschal news in each note of her fruitful life, which was filled with merits for heaven."

*From a biography prepared for the event by the Poor Clare Missionary Sisters.*



Above: The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City arrayed for vespers in honor of the beatification of Blessed Maria Ines Teresa of the Blessed Sacrament on April 21, 2012. She is the Mother Foundress of the Poor Clare Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament in Santa Ana, California. More than 20,000 attended the beatification.

**CMSWR Episcopal Liaison :**

**His Eminence Justin Cardinal Rigali**  
Archbishop Emeritus of Philadelphia

**CMSWR Board of Directors :**

**Sister Regina Marie Gorman, O.C.D.**  
Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart  
of Los Angeles

**Mother Ann Marie Karlovic, O.P.**  
Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia

**Mother M. Regina Pacis Coury, F.S.G.M.**  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George

**Sister Jacquelyn Darner, M.S.**  
Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln

**Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart Gaes, S.S.V.M.**  
Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara

**Sister Mary Joseph Heisler, Carmel.D.C.J.**  
Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus

**Mother Mary Francis Lepore, O.P.**  
Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Rose of Lima

**Mother Mary McGreevy, R.S.M.**  
Religious Sisters of Mercy of Alma, Michigan

**Sister M. Angela Mellady, O.S.F.**  
Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration

**Sister Marie Bernadette Mertens, I.H.M.**  
Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Wichita

**Sister Miriam Seiferman, F.S.E.**  
Franciscan Sisters of the Eucharist

**Sister Anne Theresa Walsh, A.S.C.J.**  
Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**CMSWR National Office :**

**Sister M. Stephania Newell, F.S.G.M.**  
Council Coordinator

**Mikki Colmes**  
Administrative Assistant

**Daniela Petchik**  
Development Assistant and Database Manager

*Vita Consecrata* is a publication of the Office of Development.

**OUR NEXT EVENT :**

*National Assembly*  
for major superiors to discuss  
issues in religious life  
and pray communally

September 19-23, 2012

*National Shrine of  
Our Lady of the Snows  
Belleville, Illinois*

## COUNCIL OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS



Dear Friends in Christ,

A very special gift is being given to us. The Holy Spirit is unmistakably at work among us. This issue highlights the spotlight placed by the Church on three women and one man. All four were consecrated religious. They are of special interest to us for several reasons:

- The Church, after carefully studying their lives, assures us that they practiced heroic virtue and lived in fidelity to God's grace. *What a gift!* You and I actually have elder brothers and sisters in Christ who can show us, in very practical ways, how to live the Gospel as well as assist us in our very real needs.
- In them, we meet *ordinary human beings* who have received the Word of God into every aspect of their lives and have allowed their hearts to be transformed by Christ – day by day, cross by cross, and step by step. These are the ones who truly have the ability to speak experientially and eloquently about God and about the human heart. They testify compellingly to the mystery and power of grace.
- *We journey together* with their spiritual daughters and sisters, who continue in our day to make Jesus Christ known and loved.



Blessed Teresa of Calcutta saw sanctity as the natural course of action: "There is nothing extraordinary about being holy. It is simply a duty for you and for me. ... A joyful heart is the natural result of a heart burning with love." It is good to be reminded of our dignity and our destiny, isn't it? This is a fundamental purpose of religious life. By our own union with Jesus

Christ, religious witness to the truth that this world is not our home: something far greater is prepared for us; that God's love for every human being is espousal: it is personal, life-giving and faithful; that individualism is common but not normal: we are created to be in communion; that the beauty and truth of God is captivating and liberating: and it is the last Word. Nothing else is more important.

Thank you for supporting us in our vocation to religious life. We could not do it without you. Pray for us as we, in turn, promise to keep you in daily prayer.

May the enjoyments of summer and the harvests of fall bring help each one of us mature in holiness.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

*Sister Regina Marie Gorman, O.C.D.*

Sister Regina Marie Gorman, O.C.D.  
Chairperson

List of Recently Canonized/Beatified from CMSWR Communities

Venerable Louis Brisson, founder of the **Oblate Sisters of St. Francis de Sales**

*will be beatified September 22, 2012*

Blessed Maria Ines Teresa of the Blessed Sacrament, foundress of the **Poor Clare Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament**

*beatified on April 21, 2012*

Blessed Mary Catherine Irigoyen Echegaray, sister of the **Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick**

*beatified on October 29, 2011*

Saint Jeanne Jugan, foundress of the **Little Sisters of the Poor**

*canonized October 11, 2009*

Maxims of **Blessed Mary Catherine Irigoyen Echegaray** (1848—1918) of the *Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick*

“No matter what becomes of me, my only desire is to love God without interruption until the end of my life.”

“My greatest desire is to come to know Jesus better and to always do his divine will through obedience. It is my only concern.”

“I only wish to love and serve Jesus, my beloved Spouse, more perfectly each day. He has greatly blessed me by choosing me to be His spouse. Jesus is my life, without Him I cannot live.”

“As we leave the house, let us offer God our steps, thoughts and words, the mortifications and humiliations that come our way and everything we do with His grace today. All for You, my God, all for You.”

“I am deeply grateful to the Lord for the illness He has sent me. Because of it I can devote many hours of the day before the Tabernacle in His presence since I cannot do anything else. I am very resigned to my suffering. May it all be for the love of God.”

“We must love the Church very much. We must pray much for the Holy Father and for Priests: that God give them strength and light to work for the good of souls.”

—From the web site of the *Servant Sisters of Mary, Ministers of the Sick*, in the “About us” section, “Sisters in Process of Canonization”



**Saint Jeanne Jugan of the Little Sisters of the Poor**



**What does the Canonization mean to the Little Sisters of the Poor?**

For us, Little Sisters, it means that the seal of the Church is placed on her charism of hospitality, as also on her message to each Little Sister of “littleness” and of confidence in God’s loving care. It reminds us that, like Jeanne Jugan “we are only the instruments of his work” and that it is only by “continuing” Sr. Mary of the Cross that we shall assure the preservation and the fruitfulness of the Congregation.

— Mother General Celine de la Visitation, l.s.p.

**Feast Day: August 30**

*Serenity*, issue no. 145, October 2009

For more information, please visit [www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/media](http://www.littlesistersofthepoor.org/media)

COUNCIL OF MAJOR SUPERIORS  
OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Post Office Box 4467  
1211 Lawrence Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC 20017-0467  
202.832.2575 • www.cmswr.org

*Help us to keep our database accurate: are your name and address above correct? Please notify us of any changes. Thank you!*

— Quick Takes —

- **Happy 20th anniversary to the CMSWR!** As part of the in March, Cardinal Salvatore Fisichella, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, met with the Board of Directors to convey the Church's priority for religious to promote the New Evangelization.
- **Welcome, Sister M. Stephania!** The Council is delighted to welcome Sr. M. Stephania Newell, F.S.G.M., a Sister of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George, to serve as our next Council Coordinator. We would also like to thank Sr. Gabrielle Mary Braccio, R.S.M., for her nine years of service to the CMSWR. She is now being assigned to a new area of service with her community, the Religious Sisters of Mercy.
- The **National Assembly** will reflect on the future vision of the Council and taking particular direction from what the New Evangelization means for the Council.

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

**Blessed Mary Catherine Irigoyen Echegaray** — *Servants of Mary, Ministers to the Sick*

On November 26, the feast of the Espousals of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary Catherine was baptized in the Cathedral of Pamplona, and on November 26, 1860, Mary Catherine received her First Holy Communion. Belonging to a family with deep Christian values, she was brought up in the faith, and as a young woman she was president of the Children of Mary. Her charity was manifest within her own family as well as with the sick and the poor. ...

All who knew her were struck by her kindness, her strong yet gentle character, perseverance and determination. She always appeared to be "lighthearted, joyful and strong-spirited; she was ready to welcome everyone with cheerfulness and to help them in whatever way she could."

As a Servant of Mary, she showed great charity in her untiring care for the sick during the recurrent cholera, typhus and smallpox epidemics that plagued Spain during that era as well as the influenza of 1890. She was particularly known for being totally dedicated to the sick without any fear of becoming infected herself.



"All I can do is serve" was the motto of her life, and she gave herself unconditionally to anyone who needed her, within and outside the convent. She found time for everything, and her life was sustained by her limitless love for the Eucharist. She would spend long hours in adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist.

In 1913 she was diagnosed with tuberculosis of the bone. After a lengthy illness which she accepted with complete abandonment into the hands of God and with a widespread reputation of holiness, she died in Madrid on October 10, 1918.

*Left: Bl. Mary Catherine's community, the Servant Sisters of Mary, Ministers to the Sick. Biography from their web site, cited on the previous page.*

*Please visit [www.cmswr.org](http://www.cmswr.org) to sign up, donate, or read about our latest activities!*