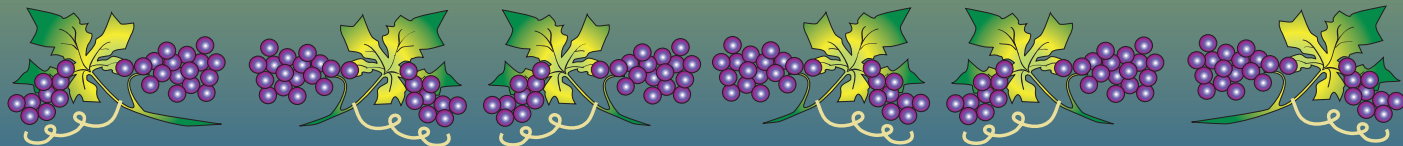


CONSECRATA

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



VOL. 8 NO. 1 FALL/WINTER 2014

CMSWR: “Waking Up the World” During the Year of Consecrated Life

During this Year of Consecrated Life, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) will be actively engaged in helping our member communities participate in events designed to both enrich their own living of the consecrated life and to increase awareness of the vocation to the consecrated life in its many forms.

On October 1, the CMSWR participated in a joint press conference hosted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops to announce upcoming “Days with Religious.” This initiative includes a nationwide invitation to religious communities to participate in three events designed to increase awareness of the life and mission of different religious communities. These days include the following:

- **February 8, 2015: Religious Open House**
- **Summer 2015: Day of Service with Religious**
- **September 13, 2015: Day of Prayer with Religious**

In preparation for the World Meeting of Families, to be held in Philadelphia in September 2015, the CMSWR is also planning to host up to 100 sisters from our member communities in volunteer capacities and at booths where families may encounter sisters and their ministries to the family.

Next fall, the National Assembly will form part of a three-day event at the Drury Inn at the Arch in downtown St. Louis. In addition to the National Assembly, the CMSWR will host a symposium entitled, “To Wake Up the World.” The symposium will include several nationally known speakers and will be open to the public. It will be a prime opportunity to provide ongoing formation for the faithful

on the prophetic witness of religious life through theological reflection. The symposium will also provide time for thought, prayer, and conversation. The symposium will be followed by the annual Formator’s Workshop.

Please join us in celebrating the gift of the religious vocation, through these and other events for the Year of Consecrated Life.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV

Dear Friends of the Council of Major Superiors
of Women Religious,

As I write this introductory letter to you I am winging my way home to New York with other members of the Council's Board, having just completed our annual visit to the Holy See. During our visits to members of the Curia over the course of a week, the Sisters and I were blessed to be among a small group invited to pray the Holy Mass one morning with Pope Francis at Casa Santa Marta. What a grace to encounter our Holy Father. The power of his holiness, the captivating quality of his joy and the experience of his fatherly love and gratitude for the presence and witness of women religious in America were a source of blessing and encouragement to us all.

In our encounter with Pope Francis, we expressed our gratitude to him for announcing a special year of grace: the Year of Consecrated Life which begins Nov. 30, 2014, the first Sunday of Advent and runs through Feb. 2, 2016.

Pope Francis has given those called to the consecrated life a great task: "to wake up the world!" With this charge, Our Holy Father has asked religious men and women who live for the Lord alone to inspire in the hearts of all people a renewed sense of the life-changing, life-giving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

With this issue of the Consecrated Life the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious shares with you our plans to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, and we invite you to join us for these events.

May you draw close to the Infant Christ Jesus in this Advent and Christmas season. With the prayers of all the Sisters of the CMSWR communities,



Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV
Chairperson



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REVITALIZE RELIGIOUS CONSECRATION

By Sister Mary Colombiere Walsh, OCD

A fast search on Google shows that just about anything can be revitalized: from instant coffee to skin care to blogs to cities. Is it any wonder that religious life also looks to revitalize?

The document *The Consecrated Life and Its Role in the Church and in the World* states, "The first thing that must be understood about the consecrated life is that it is a gift from God through the church in the service of humanity and that there is an urgent need to revitalize the charism at its origin."

Religious life is an adventure, alive with the joy of Christ, meant to be lived to the fullest. If we are to breathe new life into those we serve, we must first breathe new life into ourselves and into our religious family. Returning to our original charism

shows us how that new life was first breathed into the community of which we are now members. It reminds us of the joy we discovered when we first came into contact with our community and yearned to become a member of it. Revitalizing that charism enables us to pass it on to others that they too may be drawn into this profusion of life.

As part of ongoing renewal each of us needs to ask ourselves what we are doing to breathe new life into our Sisters, into our works, into all those whom God places in our path. Then someday, when others look at the memorial cards passed out at our funerals, they will pay less attention to the dates of birth and death, but will be inspired and revitalized by all the time in between.



Religious are always seeking new ways to 'put out into the deep.' The Year of Consecrated Life will give all of us great opportunities to grow deeply and reach beyond where we have been. These Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Church, demonstrate confidence in their future and confidence in working together.

REJOICE!

A letter to consecrated men and women;

A message from the teachings of Pope Francis



“I want to say one word to you and this word is joy. Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy!” These words of Pope Francis begin a document titled, “Rejoice!” that the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life published in anticipation of the Year of Consecrated Life. We share passages of this document, based on the writings of Pope Francis, to explain the purpose of this year, namely, “the desire and the intention of making courageous evangelical decisions leading to revitalization, bearing fruits of joy” (para. 1).

“It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord. No, I do not want to say ‘radical.’ Evangelical radicalness is not only for religious: it is demanded of all. But religious follow the Lord in a special way,

in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women able to wake the world up.”

“This is the beauty of consecration: it is joy, joy...” The joy of bringing God’s consolation to all. These are the words spoken by Pope Francis during his meeting with seminarians and novices. “There is no holiness in sadness,” the Holy Father continued. Do not grieve like others who have no hope, wrote St. Paul (1Thess 4:13).

Pope Francis calls us to pause at that opening scene: “The joy of the moment when Jesus looked at me” and to recall the important and demanding, underlying meaning of our vocation: “It is a response to a call, a call of love.” To stay with Christ requires us to share our lives, our choices, the obedience of faith, the happiness of poverty, the radicality of love.

“It is the Word of God that inspires faith and nourishes and revitalizes it. And it is the Word of God that touches hearts, converting them to God and to his logic which is so different from our own. It is the Word of God that continually renews our communities.”

LIVES OF INTEGRITY ARE INVITING

Sister Mary Joseph Schultz, SCC

In recent weeks I have been reflecting on the importance and necessity of being who we say we are. Young women who are discerning religious life are searching for communities who are authentic, living a true religious life according to their founding charism and faithful to Church teachings.

Elizabeth Gilbert, author of *Eat Pray Love*, said, “You have to set up a moment where your mind, your heart, and your voice are saying the same thing.” To me, this is the definition of integrity. And more than just a moment, our whole lives must be constantly in sync: mind, heart, and voice all pulsing together in the spirit of Jesus and our charism.

When I live a life of integrity, truly being who I say I am, there will be an aura of peace, a radiance of joy in my person. If we all live our religious lives with this collective integrity, this peace and joy will be the most attractive assets in drawing new vocations. Who would not want the gift of being at peace, able to be my best self with many like-minded sisters supporting me? There will be no need to make an impression, no guardedness in hiding my true thoughts, no need for dishonesty to cover my tracks.

Yes, a lifelong task to be in sync with myself.

Throughout our religious lives, the Eucharist is the source of our integrity. God is both the Divine Indwelling nudging and nurturing from within and the Invitation drawing us into loving service of neighbor. As the “within” and the “without” intensify, the gap diminishes and my life of integrity blossoms on a journey of blessedness!



A Whole New Office

This past summer, the CMSWR office moved into the Theological College. Many thanks to all who made this possible!



The view from our window: Across the street at the National Shrine, pilgrims pay visits to Mary's house. If you are ever across the street, come visit us!



These volunteers earned their pizza! Thank you for all you did to make our beginnings at McCormick Pavilion, Theological College such a great experience. May God reward your generous hearts.



September 25-28, 2014 Shrine of Our Lady

COUNCIL OF MAJOR SUPERIORS OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS N

Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life: Ecclesial Women Faithful to the Missionary Impulse of the Church

By Mother Marie Julie Saegaert, SCMC

This year's National Assembly held at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois, was a time of extraordinary grace. In one of our first liturgies, the homilist looked out at the participants and said, "The Spirit of Jesus

is here, and He is passing through His Body." How true those words proved to be for the duration of the Assembly.

Each homily, every presentation, and conversations at meals and during the committee meetings brought a Fire that burned in our hearts. The participants experienced an excitement for consecrated life that colored our prayer, our planning, and our reflections.

The announcement of the Year of Consecrated Life brings with it an opportunity not only for the People of God to become more aware of the beauty of our life, but also for each consecrated soul to turn inward and, as Saint John Paul II invited us, *launch out into the deep*. The homilists and presenters at the





ady of the Snows in Belleville, Illinois

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ~ SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2014

Assembly, including Most Reverend Carlo Maria Vigano, Apostolic Nuncio, and Most Reverend Salvator Rino Fisichella, the President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, were inspired by the Spirit of Jesus to encourage us to reverence our call to holiness and to love our vocation and our ministries with renewed fervor. With Christ as the Center of our lives, the members of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious have taken the challenge “*Wake Up America*” as an invitation to speak His Name with new impetus, that we may carry His Love to a world that waits for Him and for His Mercy.



Excerpt from Presidential Address of Sister Regina Marie Gorman, OCD

“We can’t give what we don’t have.” We cannot be an anchoring presence to anyone – to our religious communities, to our dioceses – unless we allow Him to permeate us with His love. His love alone anchors us definitively... When we are daily surrendering ourselves to His transforming love, then there can be no question of how we will be faithful to the missionary impulse of the Church. We would have to do violence to ourselves to contain our joy and our zeal. Our primary work is simply to receive the flame and then we will truly be “*the eloquent language of a transfigured life, capable of amazing the world.*”



VENI, SPONSA CHRISTI: FINAL PROFESSIONS 2014

**Congratulations to the final profession classes of CMSWR member communities
from November 2013 - November 2014!**

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration



*Sister Pamela Catherine
Peasel, OSF
Franciscan Sisters
of Christian Charity*



*Sister Susan Francis
Graham, ASCJ
Apostles of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus*



*Sister Mary Catherine
Baidy, OP
Dominican Sisters
of Divine Providence*



*Sister M. Anna Joseph
Nelling, OSF*



*Sister Maria Gemma
Salyer, OSF*



*Sister M. Madeleine
Schumacker, OSF*



Sr. Mary Gabriel Whitney, Sr. Michael Vincent Krestyn, Sr. Maria Jose Acosta, Sr. Miriam Holzman, Sr. Mariana McGlynn, Sr. Agnes Maria, Sr. Mary Rita Lumbrezer, and Sr. Imelda Marie Shaw of the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist stand with bishops, superiors, and formators after their final vows.



*Sister Regina Marie Chambers and
Sister Mary Gabriel Clausius,
School Sisters of Christ the King*



*Sister Nirmala Antony, OBT
and Sister Shyne Mathai, OBT,
Oblates to the Blessed Trinity*



*Mother Judith Zuniga with
Sister Juliana Gonzalez, OCD,
Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart
of Los Angeles*

VENI, SPONSA CHRISTI: FINAL PROFESSIONS 2014

Please pray for these sisters and for many new religious vocations.

Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia



*Sister Maria Benedicta
Mantia, OP*



*Sister Mary Margaret
Taranto, OP*



*Sister Dominica
Bickerton, OP*



*Sister Rita Marie
Kampa, OP*



*Sister Maria Francesca
Wiley, OP*



Sr. Margaret Muchire, Sr. Maria del Rosario Castro, Superior General, Sr. Joan Daniel Healy, Provincial Superior, and Sr. Celice Marie Gonzales of the Sisters of Christian Charity

Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne



*Sister Stella Mary
Morales, OP*



*Sister Carmela Marie
Millan, OP*



*Sister Maryam Caritas
Sparke, SOLT*



*Sister Maria Caritas
Wendt, SOLT*



*Sister Jean Marie
Walker, SOLT*



*Sister Mary Elizabeth
Albers, SOLT*



*Sister Rejoice Mary
Hoedoafia, SOLT*



*Sister Kateri Marie
Burbee, SOLT*



*Sister Angelica Marie
Chanphg, SOLT*

Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity

VENI, SPONSA CHRISTI: FINAL PROFESSIONS 2014

Please pray for these sisters and for many new religious vocations.

Franciscan Sisters, T.O.R. of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother



*Sister Maria Teresa
Tortorice, TOR*



*Sister Elizabeth
Beussink, TOR*



*Sister Eliana
Day, TOR*

Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart



*Sister Rose
Amoranto, SDSH*



*Sister Sophia
Farkas, SDSH*



*Sister Mary Beverly
Arao, PVMI
Parish Visitors of
Mary Immaculate*



*Mother Mary Clare
Roufs, ACJ
Handmaids of the
Heart of Jesus*



*Sister Ines
Horvath, SDSH*



*Sister Gabrielle
Vogl, SDSH*

CONSIDER A GIFT FOR A GREAT CAUSE

Contributions to our annual fund help support the Vision and Values of the CMSWR. In this Fall edition of Consecrata the focus is commitment. The member communities of CMSWR desire to promote the ongoing revitalization of religious life.

Your support today will allow us to:

- Offer support to our member communities by way of shared resources
- Provide on-going formation workshops for our member communities. With the multitude of young women in initial formation, these formation workshops provide the tools our formators need to better form and train young vibrant women religious who know and love their vocation, their religious communities, and Holy Mother Church
- Expand opportunities for participation, dialogue, and education on the patrimony of the Church's teaching on religious life
- Promote unity among major superiors, thus testifying to their union with the Magisterium and their love for Christ's Vicar on earth
- Coordinate active cooperation with the USCCB
- Maintain and develop the CMSWR sponsored Domus House of Studies in Rome



CELEBRATING THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Gratefully Remembering the Past • Living the Present Passionately • Embracing the Future with Hope

SAVE THE DATES

“Days with Religious” will be hosted by many communities:

- February 8, 2015: Religious Open House
- Summer 2015: Day of Service with Religious
- September 13, 2015: Day of Prayer with Religious

Theology Course in Spanish: July 6-17, 2015

“Exploring the Patristics,” a theology course in Spanish for all Spanish-speaking sisters, to be held at Pax Christi Liturgical Retreat Center, Corpus Christi, Texas

8th World Meeting of Families: September 22-27, 2015

Sisters will participate in various ways in support of families as volunteers, translators, panelists, and will be present at community and CMSWR booths in the “Marketplace” Philadelphia.

CMSWR Symposium on Religious Life: “To Wake Up the World”

Drury Plaza Hotel at the Arch in St. Louis

- November 13, 2015: National Assembly for CMSWR members
- November 14, 2015: Symposium sessions for all religious, clergy, laity, vocation directors, women discerning religious life
- November 15, 2015: Formators Workshop for member communities

Visit our website cmswr.org for more information.

Enjoy photos and other media, sign up for this newsletter or e-news, make a donation online and learn about our member communities.

May God bless you for your prayers and support of religious life.

Please know of our daily prayers for you!



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REVITALIZATION THROUGH RENEWAL OF CHARISM

By Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate

Being aware of the roots of our congregation helps us to rediscover the founding charism by which the Holy Spirit led the foundress to begin the community. St. Bernard's parish in Waterville, NY is the home parish of our foundress, Mother Mary Teresa Tallon. On August 17 the parish had its annual celebration for the feast of St. Bernard, and a group of Parish Visitors joined them for the celebration. Bishop Robert J. Cunningham, bishop of the Syracuse diocese, and the pastor, Fr. Paul Carey, were present. Sister Maria Catherine updated everyone on the cause for possible canonization of our foundress, and Bishop Cunningham spoke of Mother Mary Teresa and the community. The Sisters also visited the cemetery where Mother Mary Teresa's parents and several other relatives are buried.

We also joined one of our Sisters this year in celebrating her 100th birthday. Seeing her surrounded by young Sisters serves as a reminder that we pass on that founding charism through the witness of our lives. Thank you, Sister Mary Frances, for preserving and passing on the charism of Mother Mary Teresa!

