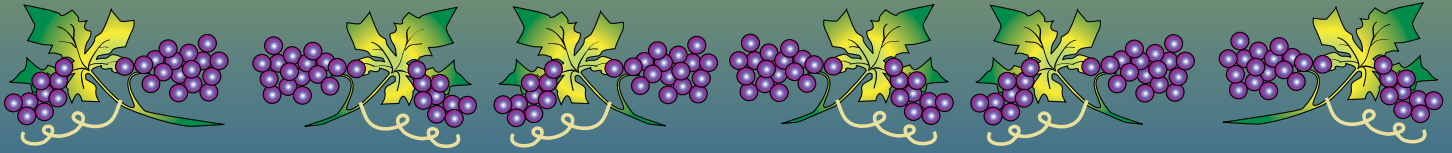


CONSECRATA

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



SUMMER 2019

2018 CMSWR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Leading with the Heart of Mary

"For Mary is what God wants us to be, what he wants his Church to be: a Mother who is tender and lowly, poor in material goods and rich in love, free of sin and united to Jesus, keeping God in our hearts and our neighbor in our lives. To set out anew, let us look to our Mother. In her heart beats the heart of the Church."

Pope Francis, Holy Mass on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

January 1, 2018

The National Assembly provides a forum for superiors to come together to listen, learn, and nurture "a renewed appreciation of the deeper theological reasons for this special form of consecration." Last year's National Assembly gathered over 100 major superiors who reflected on the theme *Leading with the Heart of Mary* and participated in conferences, liturgies and the election of board members. We were blessed to be accompanied by the traveling image of Our Lady of Guadalupe!



The National Assembly opened with Holy Mass celebrated by His Eminence, Justin Cardinal Rigali. In his homily, Cardinal Rigali said, "Appropriately you have chosen the phrase, *Leading with the Heart of Mary*, choosing an unsurpassed model. The celebration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary gives us insight into what it means to 'lead with the Heart of Mary.' The Heart is understood as the source and center of Mary's life, of her mind and memory, of her will and love. The Heart is recognized as the house of God's word and the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit."



The National Assembly included a presentation on *Leadership and Prudence* by Father Aquinas Guilbeau, O.P. and a workshop addressing *Compassionate Accompaniment* by Dr. Peter Martin. His Excellency, Bishop Edward M. Rice, gave a powerful homily reflecting on the day's reading, in which we find Mary at the foot of the cross. He stated, "Her fidelity to her Son was what brought her to the foot of the cross and into leadership ... leadership is about living and speaking the truth in love."

Concluding with a keynote address given by Mr. Carl Anderson, we reflected together on the important testimony given by consecrated women in the Church – "Each consecrated woman speaks her vows, aware of God's work in her life. Like Mary each of you brings to others an awareness of God's Word; you draw others toward God's love, a love which brought us into existence and like Mary, all of us, but especially those who are brides of Christ, are called to lives of faith and ministries of love and in this way The Magnificat too is reflected." The National Assembly is an incredible gift for our member communities. We offer thanks to the Knights of Columbus, the Drury family, and all our benefactors for supporting the CMSWR and making this event possible.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Sister Mary McGreevy, RSM

+

Dear Friends,

This tumultuous year in the Catholic Church calls to mind the classic understanding of religious life as a stable form of living. Stability does not mean inflexibility. Rather stability involves adherence to the essential elements of religious life, with primacy given to prayer and firmness of purpose in seeking the salvation of others. From this vantage point, we look both backward and forward.

Looking backward, we celebrate with the Little Sisters of the Poor as they mark 150 years on American soil; consider the challenges of those first foundations. To fulfill their mission, the Little Sisters have necessarily changed aspects of their life. Yet their hospitality, hallmark of their spirituality and sealed in their fourth vow, does not change. It is manifested day after day, year after year, in their loving care of the aged poor. The charism does not change, it simply deepens. Looking backward provides perspective to look ahead.

And we look forward as we carefully consider the role of the *Domus Sanctae Mariae Guadalupe*, the house of studies in Rome. In what ways can Sisters be nurtured in theology and enriched in the heart of the Church in order to both nurture and enrich others? Looking forward provides new possibilities, perhaps greater courage, to meet the challenges of our day.



Across the membership of the CMSWR, stability and diversity are apparent. And, each in our way, we share a common responsibility to stabilize the Church in prayer. May the firm foundation of religious life, uniquely expressed in each religious community, lift our spirits in prayer.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Sister Mary McGreevy, RSM." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sister Mary McGreevy, RSM
Chairperson of CMSWR

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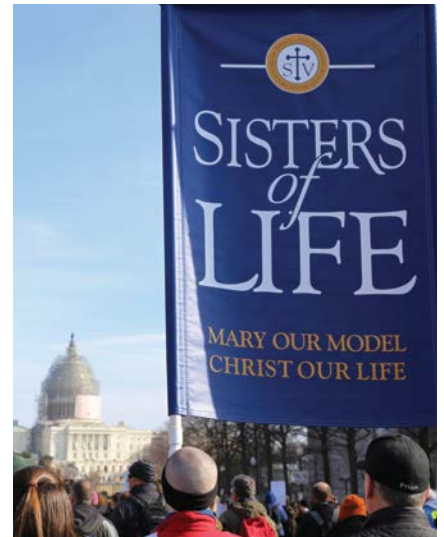
A CHARISM OF LIFE: *The Sisters of Life*

By Sister Marie Veritas, S.V.

Each human person is good, unique, and unrepeatable, made for glory and communion. That is why Jesus came. That is why He rose. And that is why we march. We have been attending the March for Life since the inception of our community. It was something dear to the heart of our founder, Cardinal John O'Connor. The March offers an unparalleled opportunity to walk shoulder-to-shoulder with our brothers and sisters in proclaiming the good news that sin and death are not the end of the story. Life has triumphed. Mercy has triumphed. We pray that our presence at the March for Life is a sign of hope, of joy, and of the dignity of the human person, made in God's image.

As Sisters of Life, all of our works flow from this truth of beauty of the human person. We offer free, confidential, and non-judgmental support to women who find themselves pregnant and in crisis so that they can choose life. We have found that when a woman finds herself unexpectedly pregnant, the fear in her heart can be overwhelming. She's alone; perhaps she's young, or her finances are bad, or the father of the baby is threatening to break off the relationship unless she has an abortion. Often, it can feel like her very identity is threatened by this new life she carries within her. She often experiences deep shame, and she needs to be able to share her heart with someone who will receive her, affirm her goodness, love her and believe in her. A woman who knows that she is lovable and loved can do anything.

We also serve women who have suffered after abortion, helping each to experience the love and healing mercy of Jesus Christ. It is so deeply beautiful to see the joy of a soul who has been healed and made new! Love is stronger than death. In the end, it is love that changes hearts and minds. This is the heart of the March. And this is the heart of our community.





Sr. Elise Fox, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Malia Grace Reed, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Joanna Marie Collins, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Joanna McCormack, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Elene Marie Piteo, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Anne Elise Wiora, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Marie Genevieve Robertson, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Ann Thomas Bamburek, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Maria Joy Zeitoune, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*



Sr. Delia Grace Haikala, OP
*Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia
of Nashville, Tennessee*

PROFESSIONS

LAST CONSECRATA)



Sr. Mary Mother of Truth Westermeyer, SSVM
*Servants of the Lord
and the Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Mary Rock of Constancy Powell, SSVM
*Servants of the Lord
and the Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Mary Consolation of the Afflicted Heeren, SSVM
*Servants of the Lord
and the Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Maria Asterone Dodeka Garry, SSVM
*Servants of the Lord
and the Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Mary Rose of Heaven de la Rosa, SSVM
*Servants of the Lord
and the Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Mary Faithful Virgin Konkolics, SSVM
*Servants of the Lord
and the Virgin of Matará*



Sr. Marie Fleur du Carmel Casadaban, SSVM
*Servants of the Lord
and the Virgin of Matará*

“I AM GIVING THEM A HOME”

The 150th Anniversary of the Little Sisters of the Poor in America

By Sister Robert Francis Marie Tait, lsp

Known in religion as Sr. Mary of the Cross, Jeanne Jugan was born in 1792 at Cancale, France. Jeanne founded the Little Sisters of the Poor with a very simple yet dramatic gesture. One winter's evening in 1839, she discovered an elderly, blind, and paralyzed woman who suddenly found herself alone. Moved by her great need, Jeanne carried Ann Chauvin through the streets of their small town, and brought her to her own *home*.

God called Jeanne and her companions to be *sisters* to the aged poor by welcoming them into *homes* where they would find security and loving care in a *family-like* environment. In the beginning, they called themselves the Servants of the Poor, but later they replaced the word *Servants* with *Sisters* – the better to express their desire to truly be sisters to the aged. Our particular mission is the apostolate to the Aged poor, and this humble service is sealed by the vow of hospitality.

Today we number over 2,000 Little Sisters, including 20 novices, and 16 postulants and we welcome more than 11,500 Elderly Poor in 172 Homes worldwide. In an effort to reach out to the poor of a neighborhood where we are, we also organize Senior Centers for those who wish to spend the day taking advantage of the social, religious and nutritional opportunities they may not otherwise get. We are assisted in our apostolate by about 2,043 lay associates called the Association Jeanne Jugan.

This year marks a special 150th Anniversary of our first Little Sisters who arrived on American soil. Looking to the future, we have chosen to use the sesquicentennial as time for reflection and



The Little Sisters of the Poor in Saint Paul, Minnesota celebrated the 150 years of foundation by taking a banner of Saint Jeanne Jugan down the Mississippi River to 'Pig's Eye', later renamed Saint Paul, the place marking their arrival in to serve the good people in Minnesota.



strategic planning, dubbing the initiative “Quickening the Flame,” a reference to the charism of their foundress as a living flame we wish to pass on to future generations.

St Jeanne clearly understood her unique vocation, for when asked why she “gathered up all those old people,” she replied, “Those old women had been forsaken. *I am giving them a home.*”



INVEST IN SISTERS AND INVEST IN OUR CHURCH!

"The joy of men and women who love God attract others to Him."

Pope Francis



Your financial support allows religious communities access to solid formation opportunities in theology, spirituality, pastoral formation and professional formation based fully in the context of our Catholic faith. Through your gift, you walk with us as we support and strengthen our religious communities, our apostolates and together serve and glorify the Lord!

Planned Giving Options

Another important way you can support the CMSWR is by including us in your planned giving. A planned gift can benefit you and your loved ones now, while still contributing to CMSWR's future and hence, that of future vocations to consecrated life.

- **Cash Bequests:** When you designate a specific dollar amount that CMSWR will receive upon your death.
- **Property Bequests:** CMSWR receives specific assets, real estate property or tangible personal property.
- **Retirement Plan:** CMSWR is designated as a beneficiary on your retirement plan or qualified pension or profit-sharing plan.
- **Contingent Bequest:** CMSWR is given a bequest after payment of a specific bequest or expense.

We are grateful for Ms. Anna S. Giannandrea for including us in her planning. Her gracious gift allows us to continue the work of supporting our member communities in so many ways. Gregorian Masses have been requested for Ms. Giannandrea. We pray she is now in the loving arms of our Lord.

We invite you to consider a gift to the CMSWR annual fund through the use of the enclosed envelope or on our website, www.cmswr.org.

SAVE THE DATES

National Assembly
September 19-22, 2019
St. Louis, Missouri



Formators Workshop
April 28-May 1, 2020
Malvern, Pennsylvania



Coming Soon!
New edition of our
Vocations Directory



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Download the app for free on iTunes or GooglePlay and be sure you say “yes” to push notifications!

