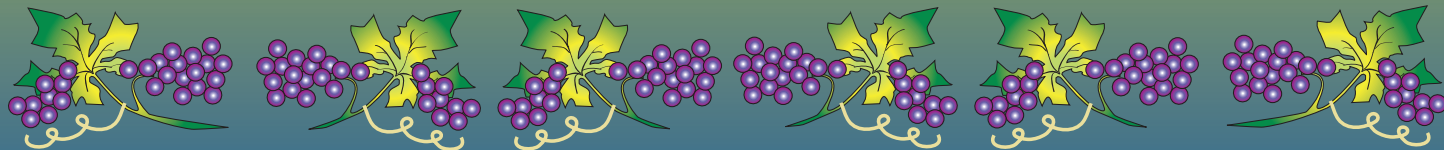


CONSECRATA

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



VOL. 8 NO. 3 FALL 2015

A NEW FILM **For Love Alone** *Mother Mary Clare Roufs, ACJ*

Ever since the ground-breaking film *Fishers of Men* was produced to promote the priesthood, CMSWR has been peppered with requests for a similar film showing forth the gift of religious life. This past year, with the help of a generous grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, this dream was able to become a reality.

For Love Alone is a powerful 18-minute film by Grassroots Films, the same creative genius that produced *Fishers of Men*. When our media committee first spoke with Joe and Michael Campo, Grassroots producers, they told us, "We want to do something that's never been done before." Ten months later, we can say with confidence that they succeeded. Sister Clare, CFR and I worked closely with a team of Sisters from across the nation to assist Grassroots in capturing the essence and beauty of religious life. From New York to California, Grassroots shot over 50 hours of footage of CMSWR member communities. Epic drone shots in the mountains of Los Angeles and the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia's chapel contribute to the unforgettable visual power of the film.

For Love Alone shows the breadth of our lifestyles and charisms while brilliantly manifesting the deep unity we have in living the essential elements of the Church's gift of religious life. This unprecedented film illuminates the Divine call and the generous lives of so many women religious who have left all *For Love Alone!*

To purchase a copy of *For Love Alone* from Amazon please visit cmswr.org. www.cmswr.org.



The production crew films a Carmelite Sister on a California beach. Courtesy Jeanine Roufs



Sr. Clare, CFR gives food to the poor in the Bronx. Courtesy Jeanine Roufs



A drone is used to film at the Nashville Dominicans' Chapel. Courtesy Jeanine Roufs

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRPERSON

Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV

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Dear Friends,

Thank you for your prayers and thank you for your support of religious life in our nation. With you, we just celebrated an incredible blessing: Pope Francis' visit to our land.

More than once during his visit Pope Francis invited us, American Catholics, to remember the legacy we have received. He encouraged us to remember that: "We are heirs to the bold missionary spirit of so many ... indebted to a tradition, a chain of witnesses who have made it possible for the good news of the Gospel to be, in every generation, both 'good' and 'news.'" That legacy is rich and peopled with religious women: Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton; Mother Mari-
anne Cope of Syracuse, NY; and Mother Cabrini, to name but a few.

At the canonization Mass of Father Junípero Serra, Pope Francis told of the motto which inspired Father Serra's life and work: "*Siempre adelante!* Keep moving forward! ... because the Lord was waiting; and, because our brothers and sisters were waiting."

With God's blessings the Sisters of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious are moving forward. In this issue of the *Consecrata*, we are happy to share with you news of our Sisters' participation at the World Meeting of Families, and in all the events surrounding Pope Francis' visit to the U.S. We also give you an update on programs which have been offered

through our House of Studies in Rome in conjunction with the Vatican's celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life.

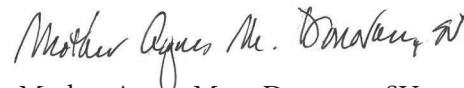
In addition, the CMSWR this August released a film on the call to religious life entitled *For Love Alone*, in November we are hosting a national symposium on *Religious Life as a Prophetic Witness*, and in June 2016 we host the first *Catholic Women's Leadership Forum* for 300 young lay women with leadership potential at Catholic University of America in Washington, DC.

The Forum is designed to prepare young lay women leaders to integrate their faith in all aspects of their personal and professional lives.

Today, with St. Junípero Serra, may we say:
"Forward! Let's keep moving forward! ... **because the Lord is waiting.**"

Be assured of our grateful, daily prayers for you and all the intentions of your heart.

In Christ, our Life,



Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV
Chair of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious



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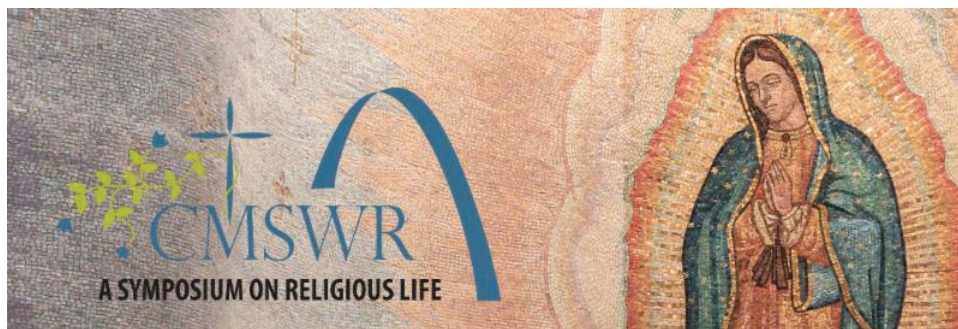


TO WAKE UP THE WORLD

Mother Joan Paul Tobin, CK

When the Holy Father announces his wish to spend a year in celebration of some aspect of the Church, we wait in joyful expectation for the unveiling of special events to enhance the theme. With Pope Francis' announcement of the Year of Consecrated Life, men and women religious throughout the world were happily surprised! With delight, festivities have been planned and fulfilled since the announcement, and other activities continue to take shape, including CMSWR's national event: The Symposium on Religious Life, "To Wake Up the World".

Five hundred religious, priests and laity are expected to gather in St. Louis for this symposium the weekend of November 13-14, 2015 to be inspired by various presenters



who will nurture a renewed appreciation of the deeper theological reasons for religious life. St. John Paul II, in a homily in May of 2001 stated, "We still await a full flowering of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council on the transcendent value of that special love of God and others which leads to the vowed life of poverty, chastity and obedience."

This symposium promises to enrich the mind and enliven the spirit. Audio recordings as well as a publication of all the talks will become available after the event. We ask for your continued prayers that this event will be flooded with the grace of God and that many blessings will fall upon the attendees and the whole world.

#WOMENRELIGIOUS: There's an App for That!

Sister Carolyn Brown, ASCJ

In keeping with its mission to work for the full-flowering of consecrated life the CMSWR has built an app! We are eager to share the beauty and joy of religious life through a new form of outreach, especially in the Year of Consecrated Life. The app is designed for CMSWR member communities, women discerning religious life, as well as those interested in learning more about consecrated religious life.

There are five main sections to the app, called "tabs." One tab is the Map that allows the user to see where CMSWR member communities are located. When a map pin is selected the app will allow the user to navigate directly to that community's website. The CMSWR tab will provide a listing of all member communities in the CMSWR, including a brief summary, website link, and YouTube link, when available. Another exciting feature is the Meet a Sister tab which will have brief bios of sisters as well as short vocation story

video clips. The Religious Life tab has information about many elements of consecrated life including vows, stages of formation, community, prayer, discernment, charism, community life, horarium, and more! Last is the Connect tab which allows users to see the CMSWR

event calendar and connect with CMSWR via Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest. Download the app for free on iTunes or GooglePlay and be sure you say "yes" to push notifications!



A Sister is an icon of Mother Church and of Mother Mary. You must truly have this function in the Church: to be an icon of the Church, an icon of Mary, an icon of the tenderness of the Church, of the love of the Church, of the maternity of the Church and of the maternity of Our Lady. Don't forget this... And, moreover, the Church is the Bride of Jesus Christ ... and the Sisters are Brides of Jesus Christ, and they get all their strength from there, before the Tabernacle, before the Lord, in prayer with their Spouse, to take His message. From "Message of Pope Francis to Young Religious," Rome, September 17, 2015

SIEMPRE ADELANTE! CMSWR at the Canonization of Junipero Serra

Thanks to a generous grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation,

the CMSWR hosted a group of 116 novices, 35 major superiors and 22 formators from 41 member communities for the Canonization Mass of St. Junipero Serra in Washington, D.C. on September 23. Novices were blessed to join seminarians inside the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception to greet Pope Francis before Mass. St. Francis de Sales Parish hosted supper and a talk by Sister Cecilia Ann Rezac, M.S., Superior General of the Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln, for the group after Mass. Several novices shared their impressions of this memorable experience:

Before the Holy Father entered the Basilica, there was a suspense and energy that filled the room. My heart was pounding. It was not a sense of seeing a movie star, but that he is really the Vicar of Christ. I could tell that the crowd was full of religious and holy men and women: there was an atmosphere of reverence for Christ, for the man who represents him. Sister Maria Virgen Clemente Ruiz, Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara

For me when the Holy Father walked through the Basilica, I felt the presence of Jesus. I could sense in him a gentleness that carries so much: he carries the pain of the world. Everything I would want to express to him, he already knew. Sister Hoa Nguyen, Lovers of the Holy Cross of Los Angeles

I loved the roar of the seminarians and novices... it was so special to be in the basilica... to see how young the Church is. Sister Maria Josepha, Carmelite Sisters of the Divine Heart of Jesus

From his homily during the canonization, I was touched by the words: "Go out and anoint with the oil of mercy." We need to see the face of mercy in the Church, especially during the Year of Mercy. I have received this mercy and I'm called to give it, and it is in giving mercy that I receive joy. Sister Anastasia Chiara Luce Espinal, Sisters of Life



Having him here in this country really emphasizes the importance of the family. Right now the family is in need of much prayer and support. Sister Agnes Maria Kilonsky, Franciscan Sisters of Penance of the Sorrowful Mother, TOR

I loved that Pope Francis harped on how we can have no apathy in the spreading of the Gospel life. I'm so excited for my novitiate to live this out. I don't want to let one moment go to waste and to be faithful to God's will. Sister Philomena Luke Folse, Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal

Thank you to all who made this event possible and all who participated!

In a special way I would like to express my esteem and gratitude to the religious women of the United States. What would the Church be without you? Women of strength, fighters, with that spirit of courage which puts you in the front lines in the proclamation of the Gospel. To you, religious women, sisters and mothers of this people, I wish to say "thank you", a big thank you... and to tell you that I love you very much. From Pope Francis' Homily during Vespers with Clergy, Men and Women Religious, St. Patrick Cathedral, New York, September 24, 2015

THE FAMILY OF GOD: CMSWR at the World Meeting of Families

Sister Luisa Villegas, ASCJ

Many of the participants browsing the booths at the World Meeting of Families Marketplace didn't quite know what to make of the Sisters at the CMSWR table. "What community is this?" they often asked, eyeing the variety of habits represented. They quickly learned that none of the Sisters at the booth were there to promote their own community and were instead representing CMSWR, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious. It was a powerful witness of the beauty of Religious Life encountering and encouraging the family, one of many such instances from their week in Philadelphia.

Preparations for the CMSWR participation at the World Meeting of Families Congress began in April 2014, when CMSWR began planning a variety of events to mark the Year of Consecrated Life. Thanks to generous funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, a group of 107 Sisters and CMSWR staff members were able to attend the event as participants and volunteers. In addition to staffing the CMSWR booth, Sisters also served as liturgical ushers and volunteers for both the Youth and Adult Congresses. Several Sisters from CMSWR communities gave presentations at the Congress, including a panel of four Sisters who beautifully spoke about fostering vocations in the home. On Thursday evening, CMSWR hosted a holy hour at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul. More than 200 people joined together to pray for the family. When the Congress concluded with the Festival of Families and Papal Mass, there were 800 CMSWR Sisters counted among the crowds of more than a million.

The experience at the World Meeting of Families was one of joyful collaboration and witness to the joy of our vocations, not only among the Sisters, but also between families and Religious. It

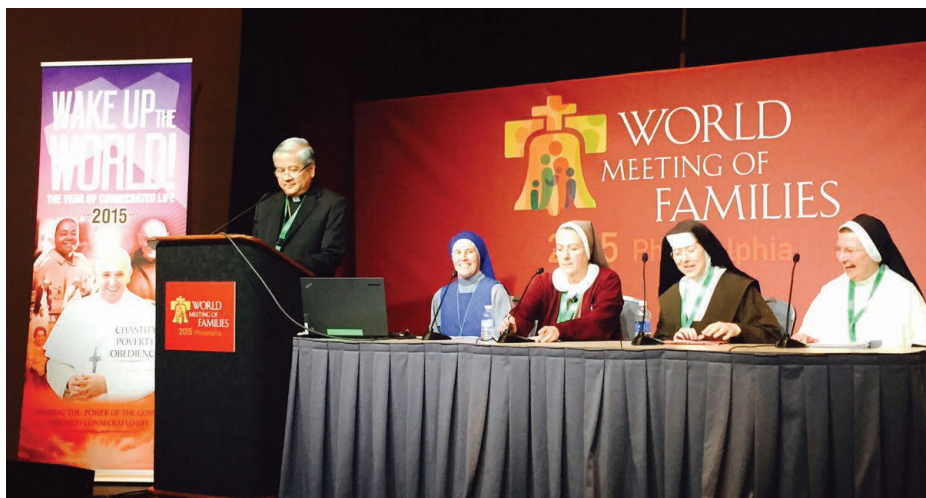


was truly a lived experience of the Church as the family of God. All the Sisters who participated are truly grateful to have been part of it.

Sr. Virginia Herbers, ASCJ, is interviewed during the WMOF.



Sisters from several member Communities present at the CMSWR's WMOF Marketplace booth.



Archbishop Socrates Villegas of Lingayen-Dagupan, Philippines, introduces a panel on fostering vocations in the home featuring Mother Mary of the Sacred Heart Gaes, SSVM; Mother Adela Galindo, SCTJM; Sr. Regina Marie Gorman, OCD; and Mother Ann Marie Karlovic, OP.



PHILADELPHIA 2015

THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE in the Heart of the Church

Mother M. Regina Pacis Coury, FSGM

In this Year of Consecrated Life, Sisters from our member communities have opportunities to participate in spiritual, intellectual, and formative programs in Rome – all while living at the *Domus Sanctae Mariae Guadalupe*, located in Rome's historic center.

In April, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life sponsored a four-day program for Formators. This gave us a chance to follow up with a Domus program for Formators from April 12-16. Novice Directors from various CMSWR communities attended the days, which included conferences given at the Domus on such topics as "Formation in the Charism," "Formation and Canon Law," and "Formation and Education." In the talk entitled, "Formed after the Heart of Her Who is All Beautiful," the presenter spoke about beauty as the heart of formation because it draws young hearts into the very essence of our vocation as brides of Christ. Our five-day program included visits to churches and basilicas, Mass at the tomb of St. John XXIII, a tour of ancient Roman sites, and more.

The Third Domus Summer Sabbatical Program took place from June 23 - July 14. The participants heard inspiring talks



Participants in the Summer Sabbatical Program pause for a photo with monsignors from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith.

by priests and cardinals. We visited no fewer than 25 churches, the 5 papal basilicas, the excavations under St. Peter's, the Vatican Gardens, the Catacombs of St. Priscilla, the Vatican Mosaic Studio, the Vatican Radio, the Great Synagogue of Rome, and toured Ostia Antica, Subiaco, and Assisi – all in three weeks!

The Congregation for Consecrated Life planned a Workshop for Young Consecrated Persons from September 15-19. Leading into this event, the Domus offered a five-day program for the same age group from September 10-14. Our theme was "Saints and Martyrs of the Early Church." The program included conferences on Church history from Peter to Constantine, on the persecution of Christians, and on the history of the beginning of religious life. We visited the catacombs, the Roman Forum, the Colosseum, the Quo Vadis Church, house churches, major basilicas, and more.

For further information on programs and activities at the Domus, visit cmswr.org.



Participants in the April Formators' Program pose with Cardinal Burke.

Thank you to all who participated in the Days with Religious!

The final event was the Day of Prayer with Religious, held September 14, 2015. Religious houses around the country hosted holy hours, pilgrimages, or days of reflection so that others could join them in prayer.



Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration held Eucharistic Adoration, Solemn Vespers, and Benediction at their motherhouse in Mishawaka, IN with the novitiate of the Conventual Franciscans.



Marian Sisters of the Diocese of Lincoln host a time of prayer at their motherhouse in Waverly, NE.

"ESPOSAS DE CRISTO, HIJAS DE LA IGLESIA"

A Summer Course in Spanish on the Fathers of the Church

Sister Maria Theotókos Adams, SSVM



Left: Participants pose with some of the members of the local men's retreat group who sponsored and served all of our meals. Thank you!



Left: Sister Gloria Salinas, PCI, Sister Maria Inatzin Moreno, SSVM, and Sister Monica Quintero Dávila, SM visit the historic 18th century Mission San José during a cultural outing to San Antonio, TX.

This summer the CMSWR sponsored its first formative event for women religious in Spanish from July 6-17, 2015 at the Pax Christi Liturgical Retreat Center in Corpus Christi, Texas. Entitled "*Esposas de Cristo, Hijas de la Iglesia*" (Spouses of Christ, Daughters of the Church), the summer course combined academic formation on the Fathers of the Church with an experience of fraternal charity, spiritual renewal, and strengthening of ecclesial communion.

Twenty-six Spanish-speaking sisters participated; twenty-two as students alongside the three instructors and one coordinator. This course, open to all religious, was attended by Franciscan Sisters of Christian Charity (FSCC), Mercedarians of the Blessed Sacrament (HMSS), Sisters of the Pax Christi Institute (PCI), Poor Sisters of St. Joseph (PSSJ), Servants of Mary Ministers of the Sick (SM), and Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará (SSVM), among others.

Daily sessions were offered on the lives and writings of the Early Church Fathers following selected Patristic texts found in the Office of Readings and the biographical texts of Pope Benedict XVI's general audiences of 2007-2008. The schedule

also included daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours in Spanish, time for personal and group study, and joyful recreation every evening. Over the weekend we made cultural outings to the historic missions of San Antonio, an organ recital, and the Gulf Coast shore of Corpus Christi. In a particular way "*Esposas de Cristo, Hijas de la Iglesia*" fulfilled the vision of the CMSWR to foster "the full flowering" of consecrated life in the United States by reaching out to the many Spanish-speaking women religious serving in dioceses across the country. This first national CMSWR event in Spanish drew sisters from 11 US dioceses: Archdioceses of Kansas City, Kansas, New Orleans, New York, San Antonio, and Washington, and the Dioceses of Arlington, Austin, Charleston, Corpus Christi, Green Bay, and Venice.

We thank all those who supported this course and all those who participated. May this event of the Year of Consecrated Life give life to the Second Vatican Council indication that "religious should strive during the whole course of their lives to perfect the culture they have received in matters spiritual and in arts and sciences" (*Perfectae Caritatis*, 18).

GIVEN: the Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum is a week-long immersion in faith formation, leadership training and networking held at the Catholic University of America June 7-12, 2016. In an environment of mentoring, Catholic women leaders between the age of 20 and 30 will receive encouragement, inspiration, and a sense of mission. The CMSWR is setting up an encounter between Catholic lay women and religious sisters courageously engaging the culture in every arena and young women just entering their professions and vocations. Each attendee will propose, strategize, and develop an Action Plan to be implemented in the months following the GIVEN Forum. Imagine the impact of 300 young women returning to their diocese, work place, or university motivated to use the insights

and tools acquired during the GIVEN Forum to unleash the feminine genius throughout the nation! Encourage faithful young women leaders to apply for a full-scholarship to GIVEN.

Check out the website- www.GivenForum.org.





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KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

- Upcoming CMSWR National Assembly, Symposium on Religious Life: "To Wake Up the World" and Formation Workshop in St. Louis, MO

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- Days with Religious
- Film, *For Love Alone*
- Making possible the attendance of 180 religious at the Canonization Mass of Junipero Serra in Washington, DC
- Provisions for Sisters volunteering at the World Meeting of Families

May God bless you for your prayers and support of religious life. Please know of our daily prayers for you!



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