

December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

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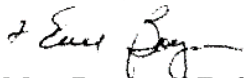
To the Members of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins,

A number of years ago, I studied some Spanish in Mexico just south-east of Mexico City. At the beginning and end of that time, our group had Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Each time was an extraordinary experience for me. To see the Tilma and realize that once again Our Lady had chosen to appear to a poor person in order to strengthen his faith in her son, Jesus, was so encouraging for my own faith. What is more, Our Lady appeared to Juan Diego as a pregnant woman, which is really quite striking.

I note all this as we are nearing the end of our Year of Consecrated Life (this coming February). It seems to me that all of you, my sisters, have the great opportunity and obligation to appear to all you encounter as “pregnant” with Christ. So often you focus, and quite rightly, on your espousal to Jesus. But like the Virgin Mary, you are also called to be fruitful and give birth to Christ especially in your encounters in the world.

It seems to me that there can be no better greeting to all of you during this Advent Season and as we prepare to celebrate Christmas than to wish you “good birthing.” May you experience, as you renew your own consecration during this year of grace, a profound identity with Mary, the ever-Virgin and Mother of God. I pray for many blessings upon you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing



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Something Ancient Something New

Newsletter December 12, 2015

Our Blessed Mother, the Queen of Virgins and the Mother of the Church of her Beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, has appeared in order to manifest not her own dignity, but the dignity of the will of the Eternal Father. She has fulfilled with excellence the will of the Eternal Father, and her *FIAT*, or *YES*, to the Angel Gabriel, accepting the virginal conception of God's Son, opened to herself and to us the mystery of the Eternal Father's love for us.

When she heard the message and answered with her *Yes*, our Blessed Mother, by the power of the Holy Spirit, conceived in her virginal womb the Eternal Father's Word, a word also to her that she was to live in silence and solitude the totality of her *Yes* to God: "And the Angel departed from her" (Lk 1:38). "The great hour of Mary's encounter with God's messenger – in which her whole life is changed – comes to an end and she remains there alone, with the task that truly surpassed all human capacity. There are no angels standing round her. She must continue along the path that leads through many dark moments – from Joseph's dismay at her pregnancy, to the moment when Jesus is said to be out of his mind (cf. Mk 3:21; Jn 10:20), right up to the night of the Cross" (Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, *The Infancy Narratives*, trans. from German Philip J. Whitmore, NY: Image, trans. © 2012 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana, pg. 37).

While she contemplated the Angel's message to her, what came to Mary's heart and mind were the words: "And, behold, thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Lk. 1: 36-37). She went to visit with her cousin: "And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Judea" (Lk. 1:39). Our Blessed Mother was the channel used by the Eternal Father to provide His Son's first manifestation of the Good News, when He sanctified, or blessed, John the Baptist in his mom's womb.

Thus it was that these mountains of *Aim Karim* were the first place of her Son's mission of sanctification and preparation, beginning with John, who was chosen to prepare the way of salvation. The Virgin Mary of Nazareth was in a state of pregnancy.

December 12 is the Feast of our Lady commemorating her appearance at Guadalupe. It is an apparition of our Blessed Mother that has a mystical and profound parallel with Jesus' mission in *Aim Karim*. *Aim Karim* culminated before the birth of Jesus Christ; *Guadalupe* happened at the top of a 130-foot hillock in wasteland five miles north of Mexico City was on December 9, 1531, on a Saturday at daybreak. A native Indian named Juan Diego was hurrying in order to be on time for the celebration of Mass in our Lady's honor, as the Franciscans did on Saturdays at the Church of Santiago in the village of *Tlatelolco*. It was on the hill, *Tepeyac*, precisely where Juan Diego heard the voice of our Lady, that a temple to the Mother-goddess of the Aztecs had formerly stood. Mary called Juan by name in his mother's tongue. She revealed herself:

"I am the ever-virgin Mary, Mother of the true God who gives life and maintains it in existence. He created all things. He is in all places. He is lord of heaven and earth. I desire a *teocali* (temple or church) at this place where I will show my compassion to your people and to all people who sincerely ask my help in their work and in their sorrows. Here, I will see their tears; I will console them and they will be at ease. So run now to Tenochtitlan (Mexico City) and tell the Lord Bishop all you have seen and heard" (ed. John J. Delaney, *A Woman Clothed with the Sun*, NY: Image Books Doubleday, 1961, pp. 40-41). Continued on page 10

Current Council

Members and Officers

Judith M. Stegman, President, 2013-2015;
President – elect, 2016-2018
Diocese of Lansing.

Magalis Aguilera, Member-at-large, 2013-2015
(Appointed Vice-President through 2015);
Member-at-large-elect, 2016-2018
Archdiocese of Miami.

Margaret Flipp, Treasurer, 2014-2016,
Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Mary Kay Lacke, Member-at-large, 2014-2016
(appointed Secretary through 2015)
Diocese of Steubenville.

Marie Beccaloni, Member-at-large, 2015-2017,
Archdiocese of Chicago.



Upcoming USACV- Sponsored Events

2016 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins

August 6-10, 2016,

**The Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center,
Chicago, Illinois**

Note: We look forward to welcoming His Eminence Raymond Cardinal Burke to be with us, to address issues pertinent to the vocation of consecrated virginity, and to celebrate Holy Mass.

Please note: all consecrated virgins are invited to attend. Those who are not yet consecrated may attend if they have a) attended a previous Information Conference, and b) are currently admitted as a candidate for the consecration.

2016 National Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity

August 2-5, 2016

**The Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center
Chicago, Illinois**

Upcoming Issues of *The Lamp*:

February 2, 2016 Feast of the Presentation and World Day of Consecrated Life (may be cancelled or postponed due to the Rome gathering of the *Ordo Virginum* at this very time)

May 29, 2016 Feast of Corpus Christi

September 8, 2016 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 12, 2016 Our Lady of Guadalupe

Recordings Available

Recordings from the 2015 Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity, and from the 2015 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins, are now available. Order forms are available on the USACV website.

Announcements from Consecrated Virgins:

“Save the Date” Announcement:

Consecrated virgins of the Archdiocese of Portland will once again host a retreat for consecrated virgins in summer 2016. The retreat will be held June 16-19, 2016 at Our Lady of Peace Retreat House in Oregon. Please contact Loretta Matulich for more information.

Consecrated virgin Aliceanne Sawyer has had difficulties with her computer. Please contact her if you have not been receiving virgin-saints emails, or the emails passing along information about the Advent Cyber Retreat, or other emails you may be used to receiving from Aliceanne. She is attempting to re-create her mailing lists. aasawyer@optonline.net.



From the President's Journal:

By Judith Stegman

As we begin this new year of grace in our Lord Jesus, I have been struck with a deep sense of gratitude for all that the Lord our God has done for us. In the midst of the uncertainties of this earth and the manifestations of evil that we have seen all about us – in Paris, in San Bernardino, with the Russian jet, and the daily terror touching the lives of so many of our brothers and sisters throughout the world – in the midst of all of this, we have the sure confidence of our faith in God. Even as we walk with watchfulness and open eyes, we do not walk with fear, but with hope: “So you have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you. ... I have said this to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world” (John 16: 22, 33).

We are blessed, my sisters, to be invited to live as brides of our Lord Jesus Christ on this earth, in order to love Him as Bridegroom and to manifest His love to this world about us, as the love of the most faithful Husband. We are called, as Bishop Boyea reminds us, to a spiritual maternity, for our spousal love for Christ is not barren but is abundantly life-giving. Each of us in our individual lives is called to manifest this fruitfulness, but we may sometimes forget that it is also the mission of our association of virgins to manifest this fruitfulness. Together, we work to present our vocation to those about us, inviting those who have been given the gift of virginity lived for Christ alone to respond generously to this gift. It is our mission in the Church to foster our relationships with one another so that we may be ever more fruitful; to prepare materials and

conferences about our vocation so that the font of virginity, flowing first from our Blessed Mother, may enrich the Church; and so that we might deepen in our understanding of the riches of a virginal vocation, together with the saintly virgins who have gone before us and with virgins from other countries.

The psalmist often demonstrates that it is good to recall how much the Lord has done for us. This is one purpose of *The Lamp*, as we regularly share anniversary reflections and other words and happenings from the consecrated virgins in the United States. In this current issue of *The Lamp*, I would also like to share some words of good news about the status of our vocation here in the United States.

Approximately 28 consecrated virgins from the U.S. are preparing to travel to Rome in 2016 to join in a gathering of the *Ordo Virginum* sponsored by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, to close the Year of Consecrated Life. In light of this visit, we have been reviewing what the Lord has so graciously done with us in the U.S. over these past 45 years since the renewal of the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity for a Woman Living in the World. What follows is a summary that was written in response to a request from our sisters in France, who were gathering information on the *Ordo Virginum* from various countries during this Year of Consecrated Life.



Annunciation: Window in St. Mary Cathedral, Colorado Springs, CO
Cathedral photographs by Joyce Stolberg

The Ordo Virginum in the United States of America

Prepared Sept. 15, 2015, Updated Dec. 6, 2015

The Introduction to the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity opens by noting that the custom of consecrating virgins flourished even in the early Church. What a great joy it is in the modern Church to witness this same flourishing, as the Church continues

in the Rite of Consecration to “reveal its love of virginity, beg God’s grace on those who are consecrated, and pray with fervor for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit” (Rite of Consecration, #1). I am pleased to have this opportunity to offer thanks to God through this brief report on the *Ordo Virginum* in the United States of America.

We don’t have an exact count of the number of consecrated virgins in the United States, but records of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins (a voluntary association) include the names of 235 living and 20 deceased consecrated virgins. These virgins represent 39 of the 50 states and 106 of the 195 dioceses in the United States. The records, while incomplete, show a steady increase in the number of consecrations as more and more virgins have become enlightened by the Holy Spirit about this mystical vocation, and have had the vocation confirmed by their diocesan bishops: 6 consecrations in the 1970’s, 14 in the 1980’s, 50 in the 1990’s, 138 from 2000 to 2014, and 10 consecrations to date in 2015.

Consecrated virgins in the United States live out their consecrations in diverse ways, each as called by her Divine Spouse. Her primary witness is in living faithfully her consecration, and she strives to present Jesus as Spouse to a world desperately in need of this witness. While we do not have exact records, it can readily be said that many virgins are engaged in active professional lives, particularly in the fields of education and health care. Some virgins are directly engaged in Church-related occupations and many others witness in a variety of secular fields. It has impressed me that many of our virgins have been called to offer full or part time service to their families in times of need, or live their own lives in a physical suffering that they unite with their Divine Spouse.

Virgins in the United States often resonate with the idea that while we may live very active lives “in

the world,” we consider ourselves to be contemplative women. Virgins are attentive to personal prayer, daily Mass, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, days of recollection and retreat - all as ways to deepen in union with our Divine Spouse, who is the entire reason for our lives. It is the faithful living of our consecrations that is the way in which we witness “to the world to come and the glory of the heavenly Bride of Christ” (Rite of Consecration, #1).

Each virgin lives under the guidance of her own diocesan bishop, and candidates are prepared for consecration under the direction of the diocesan bishop. There is not just one bishop who has been given sole responsibility for accompanying the *Ordo Virginum* in the United States. The United States Association of Consecrated Virgins (USACV), which includes in its membership almost half of the U.S. virgins, has been blessed with Episcopal Moderators who have served as excellent liaisons between the association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The first Episcopal Moderator for the USACV was His Eminence Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke, who served from 1996 to 2008, and whose assistance was invaluable in establishing the vocation on good footing in the United States. The

second and current Episcopal Moderator is The Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing, who continues the work and actively participates each year in two conferences sponsored by the USACV. The Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations of the USCCB, currently chaired by The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, also takes concern for the *Ordo Virginum* in the United States.

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Birth of Jesus: Window in St. Mary Cathedral, Colorado Springs, CO

Mary Kay Lacke Honored



Mary Kay Lacke Honored by Franciscan University

By Isabel Bettwy

Every year Franciscan University honors persons who have impacted the University with their contributions to its development and growth. On Saturday, Dec. 5, the sixty-sixth Founders Association dinner was held during which Mary Kay Lacke was named a Founder of the University. She joined three former employees as

Founders in recognition of their contributions to campus life. In presenting the award to Mary Kay, Fr. Gregory Plow, TOR cited the many positions Mary Kay had held and honored her for her contributions especially in student life and evangelization on the campus in Steubenville and at the Gaming, Austria campus, which she helped get started. In accepting the award, Mary Kay said, "I thank God for being able to witness the graces poured out on the campus through His Divine Spirit. The whole world has felt the impact of Franciscan University because of God's Holy Spirit." She also expressed gratitude to the many Franciscan Friars with whom she had worked who were influential in her life and ministry and the development of the University. Congratulations, Mary Kay!

Life Corner

By Florence Sundberg

Years ago I heard this song sung by African children and the lyrics have stayed with me: "A ray of hope flickers in the sky, a tiny star lights up way on high. All across the land dawns a brand new morn, this comes to pass when a child is born." As I thought of these lyrics I thought of and prayed for all women who are "with child," that each would bear her child as Our Lady bore hers, the one whose birth we are soon

to celebrate. And may Mary, the Mother of the Divine Child, look upon and bless all pregnant women, now and in time to come, and help them to love and nurture and cherish the infants they bear before and after the moment of birth. And may Jesus, the Child of Mary's womb, bless us all with hope and with peace as we enter into this year of Mercy, in union with our Holy Mother the Church, who bore us, each of us, in her womb and who continues to nurture us with her blessings and her grace.

Blessed Christmas to All!



Family Scrapbook

The family album made it to this year's convocation. Thanks to all those who provided mementos and gave permission for their use in the album. To any of the newly consecrated, or even those not so newly consecrated, please feel free to send material for display in the album. There is plenty of room to add pages and we promise to take care that the album is only available at USACV gatherings. Much of the original material came from the official USACV archive, so the album is considered part of that archive. [Editor's note: the family album is beautiful and was warmly embraced by those who attended this year's convocation, and those who attended this year's Information Conference. Thank you, Vickie, for your labor of love. We look forward to the historical album(s) you are preparing with Convocation photos.]

Anniversary Reflections: 20 Years

Mary Therese Wyant, Diocese of Santa Fe (NM), consecrated May 27, 1995

“Let us begin, brothers, to serve the Lord God, for up to now we have made little or no progress.”

St. Francis said this to his brothers not long before his death, in the 20th year of his conversion. As I celebrate 20 years of consecration I ask Our Divine Spouse forgiveness for all my faults and failures, and the grace to begin now to serve Him in humility, prayer, penance and charity.

Rita Mawn, Diocese of Ogdensburg, consecrated December 19, 1995

This year I celebrate 20 years as a consecrated virgin, consecrated by Bishop Paul S. Loverde (now Bishop of Arlington) of the Diocese of Ogdensburg (NY). It took place at St. Bernard’s Church in Saranac Lake, New York, among friends with whom I worked as a religious for twenty years. In 1955 I entered the Carmel there and after final vows, went to Kenya to help found a community of Discalced Carmelite Nuns there. Returning to the United States, I was involved in 1975 with the charismatic renewal, eventually founding Resurrection House of Prayer after receiving exclausturation.

I knew of the restored Rite of Consecration during Vatican II, and very much desired this form of consecration, but like Jacob in the Old Testament, I had to wait for a new Bishop to receive it. The day of Consecration, December 19, 1995, was filled with the joy of fulfillment both for me and for all the family, friends in the charismatic renewal, and clergy in attendance. Indeed, joy in the Lord was the remarkable tone of the festivities that followed the ceremony. Since then I have lived in gratitude and peace beyond understanding. In the long process before the consecration, the Lord led me through many detachments to purify my intentions, but all seem as nothing in hindsight. So it will be in heaven! I pray each day for all of you.

Consecration Announcements

United States:

December 5, 2015, Karen Bartosz, Archdiocese of Baltimore, at the hands of the Most Reverend William E. Lori



Above and Right:
Most Reverend William E. Lori
consecrates Karen Bartosz.



Netherlands:

November 22, 2015, Eliane Popa, Diocese of Groningen-Leeuwarden, at the hands of the Most Reverend Gerard J. de Korte

Note: Please be sure to pass along to us consecration announcements so that we can announce the good news! We publish announcements of any consecrations that have occurred, from around the world. Announcements of upcoming consecrations in the United States are published at the request of the virgin.

The *Ordo Virginum* in the United States of America

Continued from page 5

The United States is a massive country, geographically, and consecrated virgins stay in communication with one another primarily through electronic means. Most interactions occur spontaneously between individual virgins. Communications facilitated through the USACV include a bi-weekly electronic newsletter just for members, a prayer request line monitored by a consecrated virgin, and publication of a newsletter, *The Lamp*, four times a year. *The Lamp* is distributed by email to approximately 400 persons in various parts of the world, and includes feature articles, personal testimonials about living as consecrated virgins, consecration announcements, and reports on recent and upcoming conferences.

Two annual gatherings are sponsored by the USACV: the Convocation of United States Consecrated Virgins, and the National Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity. The annual five day convocation has often been held in the Chicago area, but has also been hosted by virgins in other U.S. cities, most recently in Philadelphia in 2014, where it received much positive coverage in the secular newspapers. One secular headline drew particular attention: *Chaste for Jesus!* Annual convocations include presentations by the Episcopal Moderator of the USACV and by other virgins and knowledgeable speakers, focused panel discussions among virgins, times for group and personal prayer, daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, and social gatherings. Convocation recordings are made available for purchase after the gatherings.

The National Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity has come to be recognized as a most helpful tool for those discerning and preparing for the vocation of consecrated virginity, and a number of dioceses include attendance

at the Information Conference as a part of the preparation process towards consecration. The three-day conference includes significant presentations on praying the Liturgy of the Hours, scriptural and historical aspects of the vocation, fundamentals of consecrated virginity, the Rite of Consecration, what it means to live in the world as a consecrated virgin, and various matters concerning discernment of a vocation to virginity. Information Conference recordings are also available and frequently ordered from the USACV website.

In addition to the these gatherings sponsored by the USACV, other virgins in the United States have periodically sponsored valuable retreats, symposiums, and other gatherings to foster ongoing formation and communion among the virgins.



One of the three ecclesial objectives of the USACV is to promote an accurate understanding of the nature of the vocation of consecrated virginity. The USACV has done so by sponsoring the website consecratedvirgins.org in order to help serve the English-speaking world. A nearly 400 page “Information Packet” has been compiled and updated with significant materials about the vocation of consecrated virginity, and in 2012 the USACV published the first volume in a new series, a volume entitled “An Introduction to the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World.” A much requested second volume, on discernment and preparation for the vocation, is underway for publication. Individual consecrated virgins in the United States have also published works on various aspects of the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world.

May our Blessed Mother, Queen of Virgins and the first to receive the gift of virginity from the Eternal Father, intercede for all consecrated virgins around the world, and protect all the young girls and women who are at this moment receiving or discovering the call to continue to live this great sign of the heavenly kingdom to come through their virginal, feminine, spousal love for Christ.

Rome 2016 Update: *Close of the Year of Consecrated Life* “Consecrated Life in Communion”

Please see the September 2015 issue of *The Lamp* for detailed information concerning the January 28 to February 2, 2016 gathering in Rome to celebrate the close of the Year of Consecrated Life. As announced, days devoted specifically to the *Ordo Virginum* are planned for January 28 to January 31.

Some updates:

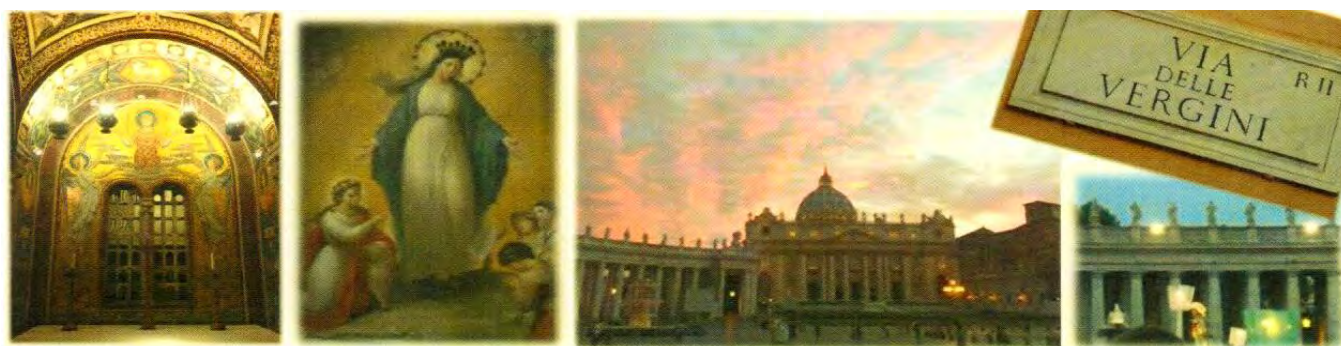
Consecrated virgin Karen Bussey has been asked by Bishop Michael F. Burbidge, chair of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations, to offer her testimony during the gathering in Rome. The Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL) had asked for the name of a consecrated virgin from the United States who works in the field of health care, or with the terminally ill, or in service to the poor. In addition to her vibrant personal witness as a consecrated virgin, Karen’s work as the foundress and continuing director of Mother Teresa House for the Care of the Terminally Ill seems to make her the ideal representative. Thanks be to God for His work among us.

Individual registrations for the Rome conference have been handled in groups, by country, with CICLSAL. At this moment, there may still be one spot available for a U.S. virgin, due to a cancellation. Please contact Betsy Lillis if you are interested (U2adorejesus@gmail.com).

For those who have signed up for the housing that we have arranged with consecrated virgins from other countries, the final invoices for housing have been sent from the German travel agency. If you have questions, please contact Betsy Lillis.

Consecrated virgin Jenna Cooper lived in Rome from 2011 to 2014. She is happy to be in touch with any consecrated virgins who may still have practical trip-planning questions. Jenna can be reached at sponsa.christi.author@gmail.com.

Note to all consecrated virgins who attend the Rome gathering: please be sure to collect and submit photos, reports, and reflections for an upcoming issue of *The Lamp* (perhaps May 2016)!



Something Ancient, Something New continued from page 2

At the Mountain of *Aim Karim*, it was the voice of our Blessed Mother with her child in her womb that moved the child John in his mother's womb to prepare the way of Jesus Christ. Elizabeth was moved by the Holy Spirit to recognize the Mother of her Lord. At *Tepeyac* our Lady revealed herself as the "ever-virgin Mary, Mother of the true God." There, too, with her child in her womb, she was the instrument to unify and to create a strong understanding of the love of the Eternal Father. In her *Magnificat*, Mary spoke with a praising spirit to the Eternal Father using the same song sung by other women in the Old Testament, with the exception that she added the words: "And all the generations will call me blessed" (Lk. 1:48). Mary in person was the instrument used to prepare the people to be one in Christ her son. She spoke as both the Mother of the Son of God and as the Mother of His Church. Her words were like a maternal canticle for all of us, and her message is one of continual evangelization on behalf of her son's mission of redemption.

Consecrated virgins have the calling to be a maternal presence in the Church. Like Mary, the Queen of Virgins, the consecrated virgin is an eloquent icon of the Church's maternity. Like her Blessed Mother, the consecrated virgin is also a true mother in her spirit of mystical union with the Divine Spouse. She also bears children and realizes a complete spiritual state of pregnancy as she prays, serves, manifests and vividly witnesses to the Eternal love of God for all his children.

Holy Mother Church reminds us: "*You who are virgins for Christ become mothers in the spirit (Ordo Consecrationis Virginum, n. 16)* by lovingly co-operating in the evangelization of man and in his advancement. ... Mary, by a singular privilege and by her fidelity to the Lord's call, became the virgin mother of God's Son" (John Paul II, "You are Sign of the Church's Virginity," address to the International Conference of Consecrated Virgins, in *L'Observatore Romano*, N 24, 14 June 1995).



Hate the Sin, Love the Sinner

By Joyce Stolberg

On a cold, blustery, snowy Black Friday, November 27, 2015, Father Bill Carmody said Mass and led a prayer vigil filled with pro-life Catholics outside the Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs, Colorado, as he does every Friday. Praying on a narrow strip of land by the sidewalk, they have never been violent or obnoxious; they simply plead for the conversion of Planned Parenthood, not for its harm.

Due to the weather, they had left early and were long gone when a lone gunman, Robert Dear, approached and began shooting anyone in sight; then he held the clinic in a five and a half hour siege before surrendering. His comment, “No more baby parts!” gave a partial hint as to his motivation for that rampage, which took three lives and injured others. Fr. Carmody’s first reaction was to call the guard at Planned Parenthood and inquire if he and the staff were “all right.” Bishop Michael Sheridan of Colorado Springs called the rampage “an act of pure evil” (Catholic Herald, Dec. 4, 2015).

As a pro-life people, we are strictly non-violent and these incidents cause us great sadness; as consecrated virgins who give life spiritually, we pray earnestly for an end to all abortion and to all deliberate taking of innocent human life. We hate these sins, but, as taught by our divine Spouse, we must love and pray for the sinners. Let us continually pray for the conversion of all those who commit sins against human life, including abortion and euthanasia.



Reflection on Our Lady

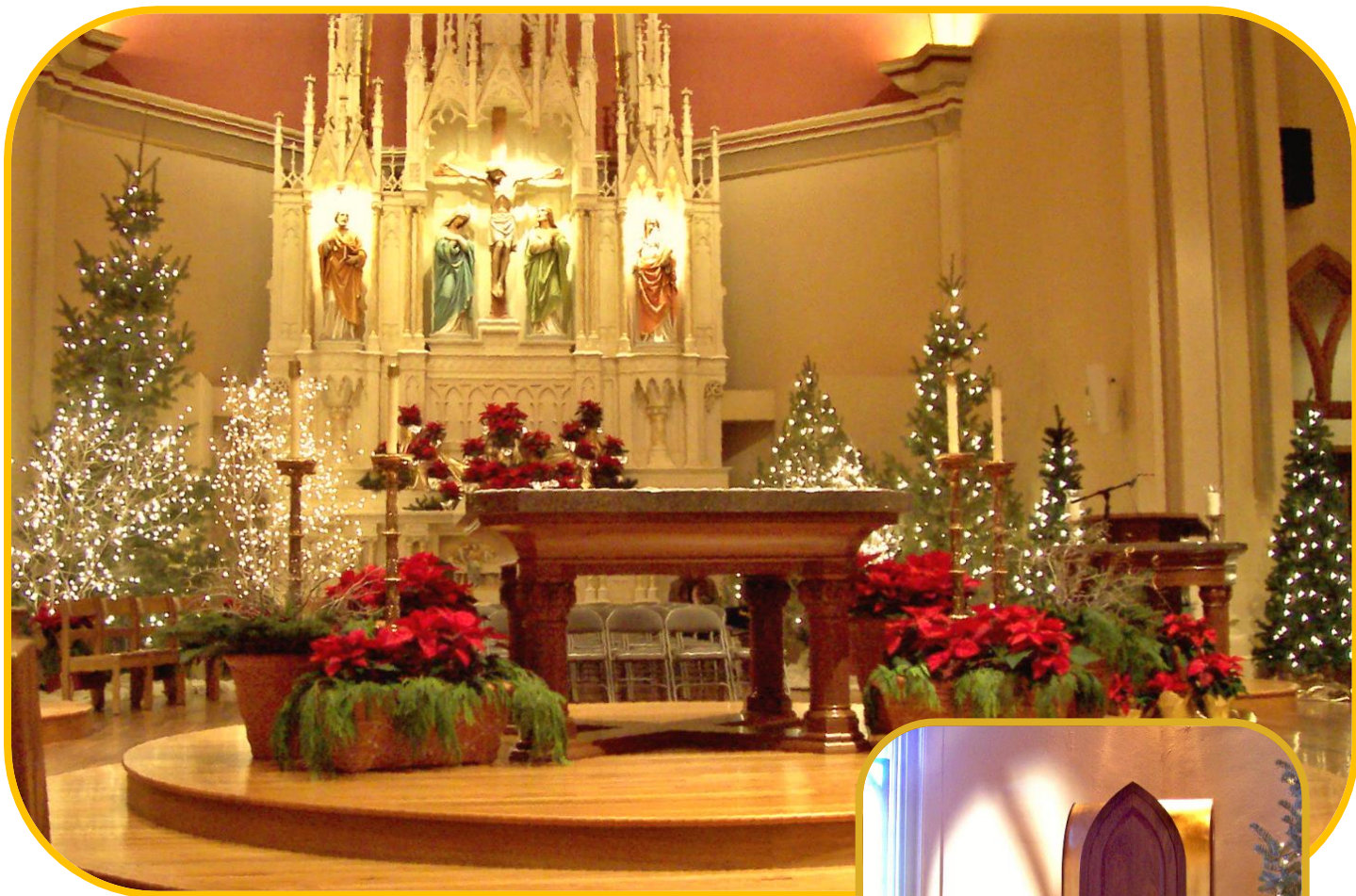
By Mary Kay Lacke

As we celebrate these two beautiful December feast days of Our Lady, the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, I have been drawn into a deep experience of gratitude for Mary’s central role in our lives as consecrated virgins. Without Mary’s “Yes,” we would not **be** consecrated virgins! She is not only a model for us but our mother, the one who made it possible for us to respond to Our Lord’s invitation to belong to Him alone, and to offer the gift of virginity we received to the Father for consecration

Both at Guadalupe and at Lourdes, Our Lady extends her motherly solicitude to simple hearts, in reassurance that she can guide them in a life of total union with her Son. Like St. Juan Diego and St. Bernadette, under Our Lady’s guidance, our lives can be a life-giving witness in the world around us.

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Our life, our sweetness and our hope!





Pictures from St. Mary Cathedral,
Colorado Springs



The Birth of Jesus

“While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.”
Luke 2:6, 7

May we consecrated virgins make our hearts a fitting place to lay our newborn Savior.

Merry Christmas!



SERVING THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY

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