

The Lamp



**United States Association of
Consecrated Virgins**

September 8, 2012
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES ASSOCIATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINS:

Volume 17, Issue 3

September 8, 2012, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Fr. Cantalamessa always makes wonderful contributions to theology. In a recent article, he reflected on Luke 20:34-36:

And Jesus said to them, "The sons of this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given into marriage, for they cannot die anymore, because they are equal to angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

Here he pointed out how virginity helps all, including married people, to see what our lives will eventually be. As holy as marriage is, it will not endure in heaven. Why? For two reasons: first of all, because we will not die and thus there will be no need to produce another generation to replace us, and, secondly, because we will need no particular individual to make us feel complete or fulfilled because God will do that for each and every one of us.

Virgins, then, serve as reminders that marriage is not to be the end-all and be-all of the Christian life. Rather, every marriage must have Christ as a partner and as the end of its mission.

Fr. Cantalamessa adds that where some may think that virginity is somehow contrary to nature, in fact, virginity is the fullest expression of human nature, showing what our eternal destiny is. To be human is to be called by God and to be called toward God. We are all called toward union with God, forever.

Finally, Fr. Cantalamessa quotes a wonderful line from St. Cyprian, who wrote to virgins these words: "What we shall be, already you have begun to be."

On this great feast of Mary's birth, I salute you all for being that sign of the future of humanity and for your humble embrace of Mary's mission to show forth Jesus in all you do and are.

A most blessed feast to all of you.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Bishop of Lansing

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Special Points of Interest:

- Convocation photos
- Upcoming Events
- Consecrations
- Publication Volume 1—ORDO VIRGINUM

Virginity and fecundity are intrinsically related to one another. The vocation of consecrated virginity was instituted as Jesus Christ, in his own virginity, desired to teach all generations to come that his Spouse, the Church, is fertile – she bears him sons and daughters in His divine and virginal essence. Saint Methodius taught: “What then did the Lord, the Truth and the Light, accomplish on coming down to the world? He preserved His flesh incorrupt in the virginity with which he had adorned it. And so us too, if we are to come to the likeness of God, endeavor to aspire to the virginity of Christ” (Saint Methodius of Olympus, Symposium 1.5). Saint Methodius depicts a festive meal of ten virgins in the garden of Arete at which each of the participants extols Christian virginity and its sublime excellence. It concludes with a hymn on Jesus as the Bridegroom of the Church.

The mystical meaning of the consecrated virgin’s fecundity is found in the virginal fecundity of her Divine Spouse as Bridegroom of the Church. Saint Methodius paralleled the prudent vigilance with which these ten virgins lived their espousal to Jesus Christ, with the prudent vigilance required for all who await the Kingdom of God, as illustrated in the Parable of the Ten Virgins: “I keep myself pure for Thee, O Bridegroom, and holding a lighted torch I go to meet Thee.” Methodius sang likewise of the Blessed Virgin Mother’s fruitful virginity in his verse about the Bridegroom: “The parent of Thy life, that unspotted Grace and undefiled Virgin, bearing in her womb without the ministry of man, by an immaculate conception, and who thus became suspected of having betrayed the marriage-bed, she, O blessed one, when pregnant, thus spoke: ‘I keep myself pure for Thee, O Bridegroom, and holding a lighted torch, I go to meet Thee’” (Cfr. The Banquet of the Ten Virgins by Saint Methodius of Olympus, Lycia, died 311).

Such a transformation! Such a dignity! The Virgin Mother Mary became in her virginity the Virgin Mother of God, the Virgin Mother of the Church, and the Queen of Virgins. Likewise, she who offers the gift of virginity for consecration at the hands of the Bishop becomes the bride of Christ, sharing with her Bridegroom a spiritual fecundity in the glory of His Church. “Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure – for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, ‘write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the true words of God’” (Rev. 19,7-9).

In the words of the Fathers of the Church, a fruitful virginal life comes from following the Bridegroom wherever He leads - living in the very way that His virgin Mother lived for Him: “Let then, holy Mary instruct you in the discipline of life, and Thecla teach you how to be offered, for she, avoiding nuptial intercourse, and condemned through her husband’s rage, changed even the disposition of wild beasts by their reverence for virginity. For being ready for the wild beasts, when avoiding the gaze of men, she offered her vital parts to a fierce lion, caused those who had turned away their immodest looks to turn them back modestly” (Saint Ambrose, Book II, *Concerning Virginity*, Chapter III, 19).

In the integrity of being virgin-bride of her Divine Spouse, the consecrated virgin is to be “dressed in fine linen, bright and pure” - a linen found in the righteous deeds of her being for her Bridegroom. Pope Pius XII in his encyclical on Sacred Virginity speaks of this meaning of being virgin-bride: “When the Acts of the Apostles say that Philip the deacon was the father of four virgins, the word certainly refers to their state of life rather than to their age ... This is then the primary purpose, this the central idea of Christian virginity: to aim only at the divine, to turn thereto the whole mind and soul; to want to please God in everything, to think of Him continually, to consecrate body and soul completely to Him ... Moreover the Fathers of the Church considered this obligation of perfect chastity as a kind of spiritual marriage, in which the soul is wedded to Christ; so that some go so far as to compare breaking the vow with adultery ... For the same reason the Fathers exhort virgins to love their Divine Spouse more ardently than they would love a husband had they married, and always in their thoughts and actions to fulfill His will ...” (Pope Pius XII, *Sacra virginitas*, 1954).

When a consecrated virgin fulfills the will of her Divine Spouse, she is open to bearing Him spiritual children, even as the Church bears Him spiritual children. She is called to live as the Blessed Virgin Mother lived, with a perpetual “yes” on her lips. Living in the world, but not of the world, she is inspired by the teaching of the Fathers of the Church to live her vocation of virginity in anticipation of the world to come.

Let us contemplate one final thought from Pope Pius XII: “Worthy of special consideration is the reflection that the most delicate fruit of virginity consists in this, that the virgins make tangible, as it were, the perfect virginity of their mother, the Church, and the sanctity of her intimate union with Christ. In the ceremony of the consecration of virgins, the consecrating prelate prays God: ‘that there may exist more noble souls who disdain the marriage which consists in the bodily union of man and woman, but desire the mystery it enshrines, who reject its practice while loving its mystic signification’ (Pope Pius XII, *Sacra virginitas* 30, quoting *Pontificale Romanum: De benedictione et consecratione virginum*).

Council News

Current council members and officers are:

Judith M. Stegman, President, 2010 – 2012; Diocese of Lansing

Magalis Aguilera, Member-at-large, 2010 – 2012 (appointed **Vice-President** thru 2012); Archdiocese of Miami

Nicole Battini, Treasurer, 2011 – 2013; Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis

Mary Kay Lacke, Member-at-large, 2011-2013 (appointed **Secretary** through 2012), Diocese of Steubenville

Florence Sundberg, Member-at-large, 2012-2014, Archdiocese of Hartford

Upcoming events:

2013 National Convocation of United States Consecrated Virgins:

July 10-14, 2013

Mundelein Retreat and

Conference Center

Chicago area

2013 National Information

Conference:

July 30-August 2, 2013

Bethany House

at St. Francis Retreat Center,

DeWitt, Michigan

Lansing area.

Hosting future convocations:

Possible convocation sites outside of Chicago are under consideration for 2014. Consecrated virgins are welcome to submit proposals for hosting future convocations in your locale. Please see guidelines posted on the USACV website.

Team Announcements:

Membership Team: If you haven't yet registered as a member for 2012, please do so soon, so that you will be able to vote in the fall council elections and so that you don't miss an issue of Monday Morning Mail.

Formation Resource Development Team – Mary Kay Lacke: - see special report on page 11.

Upcoming issues of *The Lamp*:

December 12, 2012 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

February 2, 2013 Feast of the Presentation and World Day of Consecrated Life

June 2, 2013 Feast of Corpus Christi
September 8, 2013 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Recordings of the 2012 Convocation and 2012 Information Conference presentations are now available for purchase.



Thank
you,
Magalis!

Please visit our website for order forms: www.consecratedvirgins.org.

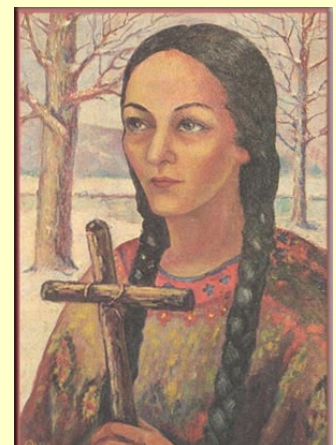
Symposiums for Consecrated Virgins, sponsored by the Diocese of LaCrosse Office of Consecrated Life:

October 13, 2012, *The Faith of Our Lady and the Cloud of Witnesses*, La Crosse, Wisconsin. Contact Barb Swieciak, 608-788-7700 ext 2240 or scwjoy@gmail.com for registration information.

April 13, 2013, *Symposium on St. Joseph*, in De Pere, Wisconsin, near Green Bay, at the National Shrine of St. Joseph. Shirley Farrell will host this symposium.

Special Invitation: Bishop Francis Kane, Auxiliary in Chicago, cordially invites consecrated virgins to attend "Bishops Reflect on the Amazing Holy Mass" on September 22, 2012 in Milwaukee. The all day conference will include presentations by Archbishop Jerome Listecki (Milwaukee), Bishop Robert Morlino (Madison), Aux, Bishop Francis Kane (Chicago), Bishop Frank Dewane (Venice, FL), and Aux. Bishop Donald Hying (Milwaukee). Registration information is available at www.rosaryea.org. Mention on your registration form if you are a consecrated virgin, so that seating arrangements can be made.

October 21, 2012: Canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, the copatroness of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins. A few virgins will be travelling to Rome for the canonization. On the same day, Florence Sundberg is coordinating a visit to the National Kateri Tekakwitha Shrine in New York. For more information, please see recent issues of Monday Morning Mail, or contact Florence at desertwatch333@comcast.net.



Introductory remarks...

Earlier in July Consecrated virgins and candidates gathered in Mundelein, Illinois for our annual convocation. As you can tell, there were many, *many* laughs amid our learning, sharing and prayer. This year we reflected together on the topic of *Bridal Mysticism*. The days were graced by the words from our presenters, the presence of each participant (some of whom attended for the first time!) and most of all by our dear Lord.

During these days we celebrated some of our “own.” On Friday evening we had our *Kateri Fest!* This night held much joy. The greatest joy is the anticipation of our sister’s canonization, although on this particular night we were entertained as our “10 little virgins learned from Miss Kateri.” We enjoyed a special homemade treat from our Cuban-American sister and all gathered around to watch a movie on Blessed Kateri’s life. Saturday’s celebration honored those who are celebrating jubilee anniversaries this year. I think many of us returned with happy memories to the day of our own consecration as we listened to their memories and stories!

As I reflect on our conversations and time together I am reminded of the exhortation from Saint John of the Cross: “to put love there.” We are daily reminded of the many places where our Beloved Spouse is not accepted or perhaps not present. It is there, mystically united with our Beloved Bridegroom that we have the joyful and humble privilege to make Him present, to bring love there foremost by our very lives which are espoused to Him.

I thank Anne Gishpert for her logistical planning and coordinating for the convocation. Anne, makes it possible for all of us to actually *get* there! I know both Anne and I are edified to be able to serve all of you this way. May you enjoy some of the photos, highlights and reflections from these recent days.

In the explosive love of our divine Spouse!
Nicole Bettini, Consecrated Virgin & USACV Treasurer

Carolyn Blaszczyk (Diocese of Harrisburg, PA)

As, still, the only Consecrated Virgin in my diocese and living more than 1000 miles from my nearest family member, it is a special joy to be among other consecrated virgins at our annual convocation. While I look forward to attending the convocation, being asked to speak created more of a challenge for me this year than it did the year before. Two preliminary attempts at a talk were scrapped and, just hours before I was to speak, I sat in the chapel and expectantly, and a little anxiously, waited for divine inspiration. I was not disappointed, and what I was

given to share has had a greater impact on me as I continue to reflect on it.

I’m afraid my enthusiasm for Bishop Francis Kane’s presentation was all too obvious, but he very succinctly expressed what had been a source of concern to me in my parish’s attempts to engender fellowship and initiate evangelization. His words cut to the core of my dilemma as he focused on the only sure foundation of all such efforts, our personal relationship with Jesus. A simple, yet profound truth, which we may, all too often, take for granted

Quiet, prayerful times together and sharing our stories, our vision of our vocation, and fellowship as members of a joy-filled community were blessings I treasure, and they remain a continuing source of strength and joy.

Noemi Angeles (Diocese of Honolulu, HI)

The convocation of the consecrated virgins was tremendously full of grace. I felt the sense of belonging with these women who live in the world but do not belong to the world, whose eyes are set on Jesus with hearts full of love to serve Him and the Church, living a life as brides of Christ, a witness of hope for the wedding feasts of the life to come.

I found myself with these women who speak the same language, believe in the same gospel values and the teachings of the Church, sing with one voice, echoing the praise and love we have for Jesus. Believe me, I was singing my heart out. It was the first time I met these women but I felt this invisible bond like I’ve known them for ages. I experienced the communion with all those saintly virgins who has gone before us. I no longer felt alone but united with these wise virgins still on pilgrimage. With my heart full, my complaining nature and tears streaming, I can only ask Jesus, “why only now, what took so long.” I know that it is all in God’s time

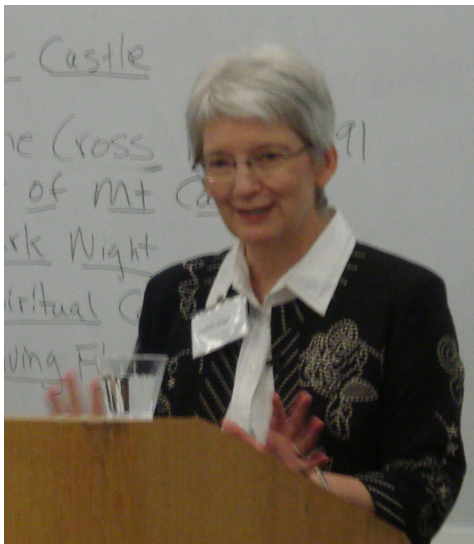


See [photos](#) from the Convocation
on pages 5,7 and 10.

2012 Convocation Photo Gallery



Mystical Union with Christ Bridal Mysticism



from the President's journal . . .

As I write, I am looking at a final printer's proof of the cover of Volume One of our new series of texts, and earlier today I sat in the printer's lobby examining a final proof of the text itself. This first volume, *An Introduction to the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World*, includes foundational presentations on the nature and spirituality of the vocation, the Rite of Consecration, and the history of the Order of Virgins – presentations we hope will illuminate the vocation for many readers. Please pray that it is well-received, and order copies for yourselves and your dioceses!

The summer convocation and information conference were particularly noteworthy this year, as you'll read in this issue. It was a joy to meet, for the first time, a number of consecrated virgins at the convocation. Likewise, it was a pleasure to meet in person some virgins at the Information Conference with whom we had been in email correspondence for some time. The summer has been full, thanks be to God!

Judith Stegman



Life Corner

By Florence Sundberg

By the time the next issue of *The Lamp* comes out, we will have elected the next President of the United States. This is a crucial election because there is so much at stake, not only our freedom of religion and the sacred institution of marriage, but the lives of millions of babies yet to

be born. I want to offer here the prayer of Pope John Paul II to Mary, the mother of us all, born and not yet born:

“O Mary, bright dawn of the new world, Mother of the living, to you do we entrust the cause of life: look down O Mother, upon the vast numbers of babies not allowed to be born, on the poor whose lives are made difficult, on men and women who are victims of brutal violence, on the elderly and the sick killed by indifference or out of misguided mercy. Grant that all who believe in your Son may proclaim the Gospel of life with honesty and love to the people of our time. Obtain for them the grace to accept that Gospel as a gift ever new, the joy of celebrating it with gratitude throughout their lives and the courage to bear witness to it resolutely, in order to build, together with all people of good will, the civilization of truth and love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and lover of life.”

Consecration Announcements

United States

June 16, 2012, **Emily Claire Byers**, Diocese of Lafayette (Louisiana), at the hands of the Most Reverend Michael Jarrell.



June 27, 2012, **Elizabeth Sledge**, Archdiocese of Portland, Oregon, at the hands of the Most Reverend John G. Vlazny.

July 24, 2012, **Christina Hipp-Flores**, consecrated in the Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba, at the hands of The Most Reverend Dionisio García Ibáñez. Christina lives in the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C.

August 11, 2012, **Laura Anderson**, Diocese of Sioux City, at the hands of the Most Reverend R. Walker Nickless.

Argentina:

March 25, 2012, **Norma Isabel Encina, Analia Mabel Marchan, and Betina Lucrecia Vilchez**, Diocese of San Miguel, at the hands of the Most Reverend Sergio Fenoy.





**More
Convocation
photos**



Anniversary Reflections

Consecrated virgins celebrating significant anniversaries are invited to offer a reflection on their years of living as a consecrated virgin. We're pleased to offer a few stories in this issue of The Lamp, and plan to offer more in our December issue.

Louise Pare, Diocese of Lansing (Michigan), consecrated May 1, 1992

I was happy to be asked to reflect on my years as a consecrated virgin on the occasion of my 20th anniversary of consecration. I've had several opportunities recently to talk about my consecrated life and I am filled with gratitude for the way God has worked in me to draw me to himself.

To tell my story I have to go back to 1962 when I was nine years old. During the Cuban Missile Crisis we were all told to go home and pray that we would be safe from war. My simple nine-year old prayer went something like "Don't let us get blown up". God used that simple prayer to flood my heart with an experience of his great love for me. Fifty years later it still moves me deeply to realize how God reached out to me and broke into my heart when I least expected it.

At that young age I had no thought of living a consecrated life, but looking back I believe that God claimed me so thoroughly for himself that I could not have done anything else. As I look back I'm very grateful to have worked for the last 38 years in Catholic publishing at Servant Books. It's one way I can see my life bearing fruit for God's kingdom with the opportunity to reach literally millions of people with good Catholic books.

This has been a year of transition for me. I will be turning sixty in November and my dad passed away in April. It makes me think about growing older and how to plan for the practicalities of my later years. There are many things to consider, but one thing I see so clearly is the care and love and protection of God that has guided me all these years. I used to think that my life with God really started when I had such a profound experience of him when I was nine. But now I see clearly that God's love and call to me has existed from all eternity. Unknown to me he planned for me. He showed himself to me. He provided me with a job that uses my talents while serving his kingdom. Through good and bad times he has cared for me.

I see that this unbroken stream of love that has guided me since before time began will continue to guide me through the challenges of growing older and returning to eternal life, where this relationship with

God began. I could never have imagined the privilege of living my life consecrated to God in such a special way. I'm so grateful for the last twenty years and I'm looking forward to the next twenty.

Corinne Dudschus and **Maureena Dudschus**, Archdiocese of Seattle, consecrated February 1, 1992.

On February 1, 2012, we (Corinne and Maureena) celebrated our 20th anniversary of Consecration with a special Mass. The 20 years have passed swiftly, with many blessings and challenges.

What a gift from God! We had the opportunity recently to meet our new Archbishop Peter Sartain, Archdiocese of Seattle.



(Corinne on the left and Maureena on the right). Corinne is 10 1/2 years older than Maureena and is her godmother.

Francesca Riddick, Diocese of Joliet (Illinois), consecrated December 1, 2002:

As I reflect upon the past 10 years since my consecration, the call to spiritual motherhood has been the most predominant development in my life. These have been 10 years of great joy and fulfillment but lived through the pain and disappointment that life can bring. These joys and tribulations are the stuff of life that forms us and gives us the courage to enter more deeply into the mystery of spiritual motherhood.

It was our Holy Father John Paul who helped me immensely in discovering who I was called to be both as spouse and mother through his teaching on Theology of the Body. In essence this is what he wrote that so attracted me: "The authentic gift of the woman, which is essential to her personal dignity, is revealed in the gift of herself as spouse and mother."

We, as women are all called in offering the sincere gift of ourselves to be both spouse and mother. This gift of self means that I offer myself to God and others without thinking of myself, without counting the cost and in complete freedom. This journey of life with all its purifications and trials little by little disposes us through grace to make this gift of self more

continued from page 8 The sincere gift of ourselves to God makes us His spouses and the sincere gift of self to others makes of us mothers. You see, we were never meant to be alone as human beings! We can only find ourselves by giving ourselves away and the way women do this best is revealed in being a spouse and a mother. We are called to this communion as a reflection of what love is like in the heart of the Trinity.

So, as I journey forward in this nuptial relationship with Christ, my prayer is that through grace and with the help of the Blessed Virgin Mary, I become the spouse and mother that I have been called to be; in union with Christ and in service to His Bride the Church.

Shalina Stilley, Diocese of Kansas City – St. Joseph (Missouri), consecrated September 14, 2002

I can hardly believe it's already been 10 years. How *kairos* time flies when you are espoused to the King of Kings!

Ten years ago, I told my bishop that I felt as though I were jumping off a cliff--but that I knew God would catch me halfway down. Well, I'm still falling and still waiting for him to catch me, but the view is truly extraordinary! From here I can see so many things that I never expected to see: the compassion of God, his mercy, his justice, his love, his providence, and on, and on. I knew when I jumped, that I was in for a ride, but nothing could have prepared me for the beauty I have seen and continue to see each day.

Sometimes God speaks through the gentle breeze and sometimes he is silent. When he is silent, he teaches me that I am not in control, that I can do nothing without him, that I am called to be faithful even when it means standing at the foot of his cross, and that I must draw strength from his Sacred Heart rather than try to do things on my own. When he speaks, he reminds me that it is okay that I am not in control and that, not only can I *do* nothing without him but, what is more, I *am* nothing without him.

Being espoused to the King means letting him take the lead. All we brides can do is trust, surrender, and let him work through us in whatever way he thinks best. Being espoused to the King means that we, empty though we are, are infinitely loved and that we are called to love with the love he first gives us.

Consecrated virgins celebrating 5, 10, 15, and 20 year anniversaries of consecration during 2012: if you weren't able to offer a reflection for this issue of The Lamp, you are cordially invited to do so for the December issue!

Report on the 2012 Informational Conference, by Mary Kay Lacke

The 2012 Information Conference was one of the best conferences we have had. Theresa Marshall and I were somewhat concerned that the number of women coming to the Conference (13) was a bit lower than usual; but it turned out to be just the right size group for the Lord's purpose. The group was international with one participant coming from British Columbia in Canada and another from England. This factor added a very important dimension to the discussions following the various presentations. The questions that were asked were very penetrating and insightful. There was a real eagerness to understand the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world. The group of participants was very cohesive and truly seemed to appreciate the input they received, not only from the presenters but also from each other.

This year, at the recommendation of several consecrated virgins, we added a new talk to the conference on "living in the world." Judith Stegman presented this talk, drawing the content from several sources: from her presentation on living in the world and some remarks she gave during the 2010 USACV Convocation in Mundelein on what it means for a consecrated virgin to provide for herself with wisdom and prudence in contrast to living a vow of poverty in a communal setting; from adaptations of material from the USCCB Program for Priestly Formation; and from input that she received from other consecrated virgins. This presentation was very well received and drew a lot of questions from the participants.

Once again, Bishop Boyea served the Conference so generously and gave excellent presentations on the vocation that resonated well with the participants. I am also very thankful for the faithful ministry of Theresa Marshall in her coordination of all the logistics for the Conference and to Magalis Aguilera for her service in technology as well as her profoundly insightful sharing of the meaning of our vocation in spousal union with our Divine Spouse.

The other consecrated virgins who generously served during the Conference were Karen Bussey, Louise Pare' and Amy Shank, who actually attended the Conference as a participant, since she had never had that opportunity before. Karen opened the Conference with an excellent presentation on the Liturgy of the Hours. She and Louise joined the other consecrated virgins on Thursday evening in on *continued page 11*

2012 Convocation - Mundelein, IL



Twanna is telling us one of her jokes...



An evening walk after long day of travel.



The 10 Little Virgins learning from Miss Kateri.



A song to honor our sister, Kateri.



When consecrated virgins were asked what they liked best about the recent 2012 Convocation, one wrote: "Everything – thank you! The general atmosphere is contemplation with seamless transitions that are done with a lot of love!" Another participant exclaimed: "The choice of the topic of the convocation, *Mystical Union with Christ* was quite crucial to our vocation, and personally I really found all the presentations quite enriching and enlightening." For another, she said that what she appreciated most was "Being together [with other consecrated virgins], praying together and sharing our experiences." The days were filled with sharing and learning.

"I truly enjoyed the talks – all of them! Much food for the soul to be used in the days – months – ahead."

"I loved the topic this year! Very meaningful."

"It is a privilege to be here."

We share these comments with you, not to tease you but rather because if you were not able to join us, we can come to you! We thank Magalis for her work to provide audio CD's of our conference talks. After reading these comments and reflections you just may want to purchase a CD set of these rich conferences for yourself!

More comments on page 12.



Formation Resource Development Team – Mary Kay Lacke:

Volume One:

The long-awaited first volume of the USACV's new series is entitled *An Introduction to the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World*, and it will be ready for purchase within the next few days! Please check our website, www.consecratedvirgins.com, for ordering information.

Volume Three:

With the completion of Volume One, publication is well underway for the series **ORDO VIRGINUM: The Restoration of the Ancient Order of Virgins in the Catholic Church**. I briefly laid out the plans for Volume Three to those who attended the 2012 USACV Convocation in Mundelein, IL, in July. I invited them to contribute to the writing of Volume Three which will be on the Blessed Virgin Mary, Virgin Saints and Martyrs. This volume is intended to truly be a contribution from the consecrated virgins themselves. There was a great deal of enthusiasm for the project among those who attended the Convocation. Since then other virgins who were unable to attend have also expressed interest in participating.

Volume Three will be divided into three major sections: Section I on the Blessed Virgin Mary, Section II on the Witness of the Virgin Saints and Martyrs and Section III on the Witness of Saint Kateri Tekakwitha. Section II is the one in which most consecrated virgin contributors will be involved in writing a single piece on their subject. Sections I and III will have a number of contributors and will also include the use of official Church documents.

At this point, I would like to outline the process for contributing to Volume Three:

A consecrated virgin selects a virgin saint about whom she would like to write and submits the name to Mary Kay Lacke who verifies that the name has not yet been chosen by another person and also that the name chosen is a saint who lived virginity for Christ in the world and not as a member of another religious family. The intention is to highlight those saints who lived the vocation that we are living.

Once the saint is selected and approved, the writer will study and write about the life, writing and meaning of the life of the virgin saint, relating it to her own life. Questions to answer could include how the witness of this saint's life has impacted the writer's life, how the saint impacted her own culture as a spouse of Jesus, and how this witness can relate to a virgin living in our day.

The length of the contribution should not exceed 1200 words. Any sources that are quoted within the writing need to be properly footnoted and bibliographical information included. If copyrights are involved, the editors will follow up.

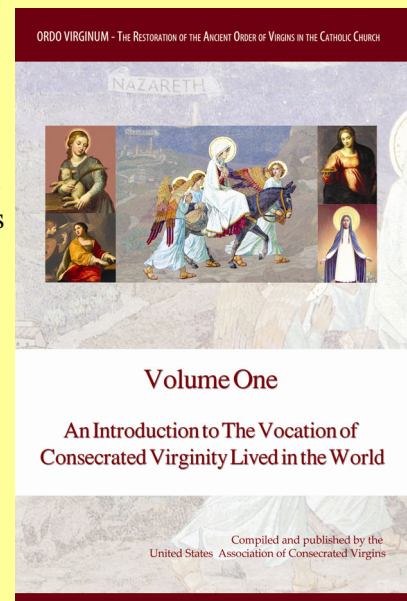
The following are deadlines for contributions:

The deadline for selection of the saint to write about is **November 1, 2012**.

The deadline for written contributions is **February 2, 2013**.

To date, the following saints have been selected by someone:

Saint Agatha	Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha - soon to be "Saint"
Saint Cecilia	Saint Macrina
Saint Dymphna	Saint Philomena
Saint Eustochium	



2012 Information Convocation continued sharing their vocation journeys. This is a highlight of the Conference, every year, because it demonstrates the uniqueness of each individual virgin's lived experience of the vocation.

Praise God for His endless mercy and grace poured out on this vocation!

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**Some quotes from the evaluation forms of
the Convocation**

**Bishop Boyea, “Bridal Mysticism as a Way of
Life – Purification, Illumination, Mystical Union
with Christ**

“I enjoyed the morning talks by Bishop Boyea
for their insights and encouragement to
my own prayer life and relationship with
my spouse.”

“Humble, humorous, prayerful – and prayer-
full excellence in establishing the basics.”

“Wonderful! He could have talked longer and
it would have been okay!”

“His talk was quite enlightening; it went deep into the core of the spousal and spiritual relationship of
the consecrated virgin with Christ.”

“Fantastic!” I told him it was just what I needed to hear!”

Bishop Kane: “Spousal Mysticism as the Spirituality of the Consecrated Virgin

“Simple – profound – enlightening – wonderful!

“His talk was so deep and to the point in terms of the practical life and the spiritual life a consecrated
virgin should lead.”

Mary Kay Lacke: “Mary of Nazareth, Spouse of the Holy Spirit”

“I’m in awe at Mary Kay”

“Insightful and captured the essence of Mary. Helped remind me of ways I can better imitate Mary.”

Judith Stegman: “Jesus Christ and His Virgin Church: Bridegroom and Bride”

“Incredible”

“Eye opening with much more to think about and pray over. Thanks! I enjoyed it!

“Enriching and powerful.”

USACV Elections 2012

Two Council positions, **President and At-Large Representative**, will open **January 1, 2013**. Details of the governing structure can be found in the organizational statutes and bylaws of the USACV, which are available upon request. Detailed descriptions of the terms, duties, and responsibilities of the President and At-Large Representative positions can be found in the June 3, 2012 issue of *The Lamp*.

Election Process

Written notification of a member’s desire to run for either of the open Council positions must be received by the USACV President by midnight on Friday, October 26, 2012. Each candidate is encouraged to also submit a biographical statement (approx 500 words), including remarks about her understanding of the vocation of consecrated virginity, and why she would like to serve in the position.

Ballots (and candidate biographies) will be mailed to registered USACV members in early November 2012.

Ballots will be due back to our Elections Team leader by Friday, December 7, 2012. Ballots will be opened and counted in the presence of an independent party and notification of the results will be made to the USACV President, the newly elected, and all candidates.

Results of the election will be announced in the December 12, 2012 issue of *The Lamp*.