



Bishop Boyea smiles for the camera



Luncheon conversation—Nancy Dvorak, Catherine Wright, Carolyn Blaszczyk, Paula Willenbrink

Magalis Aguilera's 25th anniversary remembrance



More Convocation photos



Serenity at Mundelein



Mealtime —Karen Bussey, Amy Shank, Marguerite Critchley, Mary Kay Lacke



Enjoying one another's company

New policy of the USACV on hosting the annual national convocation of United States consecrated virgins – Judith Stegman.

We are pleased to enclose with this issue of *The Lamp* a new policy developed during the 2011 summer USACV leadership council meeting, and presented and discussed during the 2011 annual association membership meeting. The policy sets forth the process to be followed for a member of the USACV to offer a proposal for hosting a future convocation.

If you have considered hosting a convocation at a retreat facility in your diocese, we encourage you to take a careful look at the policy. The policy details what we look for in a possible location for the convocation, lets you know the steps to take to submit a proposal, and describes the responsibilities of the "Host Team" in planning and carrying out the convocation.

The 2012 convocation will again be in Mundelein, Illinois. Proposals to host the 2013 convocation must be submitted by December 1, 2011, in order to make an announcement of the location and dates by January 1, 2012.

Perhaps in the future we will enjoy convocations in various parts of this vast nation of ours, and have the opportunity to interact with Church members in places otherwise unfamiliar to us. Let us keep all in prayer.

Anniversary Reflections

Consecrated virgins celebrating significant anniversaries during 2011 were 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.

Frances Power, consecrated October 29, 1986 in the Archdiocese of New York.

This year of 2011 finds me celebrating my twenty-fifth anniversary as a consecrated virgin. The words of the prayer of consecration that the Bishop prayed so long ago remain in my mind and heart, and reflect how I live my life. Over the course of time, we have all heard stories of how clergy and consecrated persons have come to find their vocations. Mine began as a child with the loving training provided by my parents.

My dad was a hard-working and dedicated employee for IBM as a plant security guard for many years, and my mother was a stay at home mom raising the three of us children. When I think of my parents' devotion to us children, I think of the Church. They taught us about faith through how they lived their lives, and they made prayer a big part of our day, with morning prayer, rosary, and night prayers together. With the training I received at home and at our parish school from the Sisters of The Immaculate Heart of Mary, I had a wonderful childhood.

In 1981 I took a Dale Carnegie Public Speaking Course to gain confidence speaking in front of large groups. I did well, gained the confidence I needed, and found my niche at work in giving presentations to management, and conducting meetings. Over the course of a few years with my success at work, three years later, in 1984, I began to serve in my parish as a Lector and an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, and twenty-seven years later I still do both ministries for my parish. After Sunday Mass, I also bring Communion to three homebound women who are ill and infirmed. They love to see me come on a weekly basis as I bring them Jesus Christ and say prayers with each of them. During the last five years of

my mother's life, I was caregiver and also her Eucharistic Minister, as she was homebound. Since 1987, I have been a catechist in RCIA and for the past year have begun to assist my pastor with baptismal preparation classes.

Separate from Church, but very much linked to my faith formation, for the last five years I have also visited Hospice patients at a local skilled nursing facility and through my quiet presence try to provide them with love, support and compassion. But all these ministries and my lifestyle stem back to my upbringing and my parents. My father died almost forty years ago and my mother died almost twelve years ago, but they will always be alive in me, as God used them to inspire good and positive thinking in me, and they were the first to introduce me to Jesus Christ.

I am so happy that God has called me to be His bride. In my prayer time, in my interactions with my parish community and beyond, and as I simply gaze at my wedding band, I know I have chosen the better part. Whether or not other people know I am a consecrated virgin is not important, but I hope that the witness of my life is a heartfelt respect and dignity for each person I meet, as I try to love with Christ's own love. The grace of the consecration, twenty-five years ago, lives on in me, in the words I say to comfort, uphold and support, and in knowing when it is prudent to speak and when to refrain from speaking.

Choosing to give myself fully to Jesus as His spouse, in fulfillment of my baptismal promises, does not mean giving up anything; rather, for me, it means embracing life to its fullest. Bringing praise to my Savior, my Spouse is all about loving and living with Him as my foundation and my guide – and with my human faults and frailties, loving is also a readiness to forgive and to ask forgiveness. Being a consecrated virgin is the best vocation in the world for me and I thank God every day as I live each moment through Him, with Him, and in Him, and pledge my love to Him through all eternity.



More Reflections

Julie Enzenberger, consecrated August 12, 2006 in the Diocese of Peoria (Illinois)

In reflecting upon my fifth anniversary, I know that I have never had more joy in my heart. Every year it gets stronger and stronger and I still feel as if I am on my honeymoon. Every year I watch a video of my Consecration and remember the complete awesome joy and love I felt that day. Every morning I wake up before my feet touch the ground I say with all my heart "I love you Jesus my love". I then pray the Office of Readings and the Morning Prayer. Praying the office of readings is like receiving love letters from my Spouse every day.

I feel blessed to be the office manager for the Cause for Canonization of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. I travel quite a bit to introduce the life of Archbishop Sheen to others. Archbishop Fulton Sheen has changed my life and teaches me something new about the heart of the Catholic Church every day. It has been a great blessing to me to work closely with the priests who serve as the Vice-Postulator of the Cause and the executive director of the Cause. Their patience, reverence, and love for others has taught me about holiness and being Christ for others, and has helped me on my road to Christ. I have also been blessed to have a Bishop, Most Reverend Daniel Jenky, CSC, who is like a father to me. I can't imagine having a better father in Christ. Likewise, my parish pastor is a true friend and support, and as our parish celebrates Mass together, I've come to fall in love with all those in my community. I also have a family that is very supportive and loving. No matter what, we are there for each other. My family has always taught each other unconditional love.

To sum up this little note I truly believe when we surround ourselves with good holy people who try to bring others to Christ and love each other purely, it can do nothing but strengthen your marriage. This also gives you the strength to go out and bring others closer to Christ. I would like to say that never has one little doubt entered my mind about my marriage to Our Lord. I know with all my heart and soul that I was made to be a spouse of Christ. I could not imagine being anything else. I thank Him every day for asking me to marry Him. I am humbled every day because I know my weakness and my faults are always before me. I lay them at the foot of our Lords divine mercy in

the confessional and thank Him over and over again for His Mercy and His Love. I reflect on how perfectly He loves me, and others, and I beg Him every day to help me to love the way that He Loves. Thank you for marrying me, Jesus!

Paula Willenbrink, consecrated June 2, 2011,



Paula Willenbrink on her consecration day.

Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Paula writes:

June 2, 2011 was the most meaningful day of my life, as I received the consecration of a virgin living in the world, at the hands of Archbishop Robert Carlson. Reflecting upon the day, three aspects encompass the true meaning of this special day: Mercy, Love and Grace. As the recipient of the consecration, I am awed at God's gracious mercy upon me granting this special vocation. I am 57 and since I was 21 I had tried finding my place in the Church through religious life, but since community life was not a fit for me I left. I am so grateful to God for the gift of this vocation and His Mercy.

God is Love is proclaimed in St. John's Gospel, and it is this Love that I am now wedded to forever. Ever since my Consecration I have noticed a deeper relationship with Jesus. He truly is my Husband. My relationship with Him is much closer and more intimate. Finally, I would like to reflect upon God's unmerited gift: Grace. Cardinal Burke was once asked what made the consecration so special and his response was *grace*. It is this grace that is infused upon the virgin during the Rite of Consecration when the Bishop extends his hands over the candidate. Our Blessed Mother's proclamation in the Magnificat seems an appropriate conclusion to this reflection: "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior."

USACV Elections Fall 2011

One USACV Leadership Council position, At-Large Representative, will open January 1, 2012. We encourage qualified members to consider running for this leadership position in the association. Details of our governing structure can be found in the organizational statutes and bylaws of the USACV, which are available upon request. In summary, what you need to know for this election:

Election Process

Written notification of a member's desire to run for the open Council position must be received by midnight on Friday, October 28, 2011. We encourage each candidate to also submit a biographical statement (approx 500 words), including remarks about why she desires to serve in the position.

Ballots (and candidate biographies) will be mailed to all USACV members in early November 2011. If you have not yet registered as a member in 2011, now would be a good time to do so!

Ballots will be due back to our Elections Team leader by Friday, December 2, 2011. 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 published on the USACV website and announced in the December 12, 2011 issue of *The Lamp*.

Position Terms, Descriptions and Responsibilities

At Large Representative

Term: January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2014

Eligibility to run for office (Article III Section D3): Open to any current voting member who has been a member or actively involved in the Association for the two previous years.

Duties (Article V Section A):

To collaborate with other Council members in the governance of the USACV in accord with the provisions of the organizational statutes, with particular focus on the ecclesial objectives (Article II) of the Association.

To make every effort to attend the annual membership meeting and the annual Council meeting held with the Episcopal Moderator. To participate in other

Council meetings or discussions as needed.

If serving as the Council representative on a standing committee, to facilitate ongoing communication between the Council and the committee.

If elected as an At-Large Representative, to make every effort to accept an appointment as Vice President (Article V Section C) or Secretary (Article V, Section D), recognizing that some responsibilities of the offices may be delegated to others (Article IV, Section A).

Other Notes

Council members rely heavily on email to facilitate communication, since we are geographically in all parts of the United States.

The Association's travel budget currently covers accommodations and meals for Council members during the annual Council meeting with our Episcopal Moderator.

Please Consider Running for Office

Please do consider running for office, and encourage other members to run – sometimes all it takes is a personal word!

Report on the 2011 Informational Conference, by Mary Kay Lacke

Praise God for his faithfulness and love expressed in the vocation of Consecrated Virginity!

After many years of holding the USACV's Information Conference in other areas of the country, the Conference returned to its original site, this summer, the St. Francis Retreat Center in DeWitt, MI. Although this move was made to accommodate Bishop Boyea's schedule, this lovely wooded area proved to be a perfect place for prayer, reflection and consideration of the vocation of Consecrated Virginity for Women Living in the World.

Sixteen women shared the four-day conference with Bishop Boyea and the team of consecrated virgins who served the Conference. Mary Kay Lacke gave overall direction for the program content while Theresa Marshall coordinated all the logistics for the conference. Others who served as speakers or organized liturgical celebrations, media recording and various types of hospitality were Judith Stegman, Magalis Aguilera, Karen Bussey, Barbara Swieciak, and Sarah Malick.

The women who attended the conference were from various parts of the United States as well as from Canada. One person was a religious sister who is the vicar of consecrated life in her diocese. The others varied in their interest in the vocation, from initially learning about it to preparing to be consecrated in the near future. All expressed gratitude for the content of the conference and the ambience of hospitality, devotion to God and reverence for the vocation of consecrated virginity that surrounded them.

Although the conference topics for presentations did not vary too much from other years, the content of those topics was deepened and enriched by the various speakers, e.g. the presentation on the Liturgy of the Hours, the discussion of the gift of virginity and what it means, the understanding of and personal witness to the espousal relationship of Christ with the virgin, and the distinction between the order of virgins and the association of virgins according to Canon 604.

Speaking on behalf of the other consecrated virgins who served with me, I can say that the conference was excellent. As we extended ourselves on behalf of those we served, we were blessed a hundredfold in return.

CYBER WARNING:

E-mail scams can be ferocious. Tips from Judith Stegman.

One particular email scam that a number of us have recently seen involves an email that comes from a friend's email address. The email is written in first person and is worded as an emergency plea for money to be sent, due to a desperate-sounding situation. It's an email that a reader would readily ignore, except that it comes from the familiar email address of a friend. In actuality, what has happened is that your friend's email password has been compromised, and a malicious user has taken over your friend's entire email address book. This can happen if a person maintains an address book on a site maintained by Google or Yahoo, for example.

Below is a summary of basic precautions we can all take with email – I've gleaned these from personal experience and a review of several articles on the web. This is not a comprehensive list, and it is meant as a guide to assist those who are email end-users. It is always good to engage the assistance of a professional to maintain your email system.

- Understand that no email communication is 100% secure. Avoid sending credit card numbers, social security numbers, user names, or passwords by email, and particularly by HTML email. Never send name, ssn, birthdate, address, and credit card number in combination.
- Never open email attachments unless you know the person the email is from, and you trust the person. Email addresses can be "spoofed" – the "from" address can be faked.
- If you do open an attachment, and the content doesn't match the sender, send it back for clarification.
- Microsoft never sends operating system patches as email attachments.
- "Phishing is a scam where the perpetrator sends out legitimate-looking e-mails appearing to come from some of the Web's biggest sites, including eBay, PayPal, MSN, Yahoo, BestBuy, and America Online, in an effort to phish (pronounced "fish") for personal and financial information from the recipient." Examples would be a message from your bank that asks you to update your account information. You click on the link, the legitimate bank site opens, then a page opens up on top asking you for your account info. This info page DOES NOT belong to the legitimate site. If you fill out your personal information and submit it, the info will go to the "phisher" to be sold or used to steal your identity.
(Source: searchSecurity.com Definitions)
- To reduce the risk of being the target of phishing attacks, choose plain text over HTML or XHTML.
- Remember that your email security affects others, and not just you, if your email is compromised.
- Guard passwords carefully, and don't give them out online to anyone who is asking.
- It is best to at least meet the minimum requirements for a "strong" password. The website www.passwordmeter.com is easy to use and allows a person to check the strength of a password based on the number of characters, use of upper case, lower case, numbers and/or symbols. This is especially important if you have had issues with your email account being compromised and taken over. (tip from my brother Brad Stegman)
- Maintain your personal address book only on your local computer, and not on a public website.
- Check with your Internet Service Provider to be sure they encrypt the authentication process.
- Be aware that there are more privacy risks involved in using web-based email services such as Gmail, Hotmail, and Yahoo! There are also more risks involved in using unsecured networks or potentially compromised computers, like those at Internet Café's.
- Don't open any attachments unless the sender is known to you.
- Don't respond to email requests for money. If you want to give online, go to the website of the organization and initiate the transaction yourself, through their secure site.
- Emails that come with promises and stories – read critically. If there are no citations; if the piece is undated and makes reference to relative timeframes: "a few months ago," or, "pass this along within two days"; it is probably not authentic. Many potential email scams or false information can be examined with the help of www.snopes.com.

A new **Vocation Tree DVD** entitled "Fundamentals of the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World" is also available for order. The DVD includes the presentation in both English and Español, and is an excellent introductory presentation on the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world. Also newly available are two other Vocation Tree DVD's:

"What about Me?" is a presentation for high school students which guides them to explore the truly personal meaning of the call by God the Father to each individual.

"You Follow Me" is a presentation for a general adult audience (RCIA, parish groups, Serra Clubs) as a primer on vocational choices in the Catholic Church.

Sadly, the Vocation Tree website store has been inoperative for a few weeks. Please visit vocationtree.com, and contact Judith Stegman at president@consecratedvirgins.org for order information.

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Council Announcements

• **Upcoming issues of *The Lamp*:**

December 12, 2011 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe;

February 2, 2012 Feast of the Presentation and World Day of Consecrated Life;

June 3, 2012 Trinity Sunday;

September 8, 2012 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Please send articles in electronic format at least 10 days in advance of the issuance date.

- We warmly invite virgins celebrating 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, or more? years of consecration in 2011 to write reflections on their consecrations for the December 12, 2011 issue of *The Lamp*. Please send reflections to president@consecratedvirgins.org.
- The fourth Symposium for Consecrated Virgins, sponsored by the Diocese of La Crosse Office of Consecrated Life, will be held October 15, 2011. For more information on the "Saint Agatha Celebration," call Barb 1-608-784-6974, or visit the Diocese of La Crosse website for a letter of information and registration materials: www.dioceseoflacrosse.com, Office of Consecrated Life, Consecrated Virgins, EVENTS

• **NEW:** Recordings of talks from the 2011 Convocation and 2011 Informational Conference are now available for order through Magalis Aguilera. Order forms are enclosed with this issue of *The Lamp*, and may be obtained from our website or by emailing info@consecratedvirgins.org.

• Julie Enzenberger writes: I am a consecrated virgin in Peoria, IL, and I run the office for the Cause for Canonization of Archbishop Fulton Sheen. During World War II, Archbishop Sheen wrote the Wartime Prayer Book, which includes not only prayers, but also reflections on how to personally handle the effects of having been in battle, why God allows war, and much more. We have sent over 200,000 of these books overseas to our soldiers as an ongoing project of the Foundation. If you know any soldiers in your parishes that could use a book like this, please let me know, and I will get it to them. More information can be found at the site: archbishopsheencause.org/recent-news/archbishop-sheens-book-to-soldiers/358. God Love you, Julie

Prayer to Saint Lucy

– presented by *Aliceanne Sawyer*, who received a prayer card from a friend who visited the tomb of Saint Lucy in Venice, Italy:

Saint Lucia, you have constantly desired the Light, you have loved the light with the enthusiasm of youth!

And with constancy and the witness of martyrdom you have testified that the Light is there:

Jesus, our Lord and Savior, Who enlightens every person.

Saint Lucia, today many persons have the eyes of flesh, but they do not have the eyes of the Heart, today our cities respond to lights, but the crowds are gloomy because pride has rendered the look impure.

Saint Lucia, pray because in every family shines the Light of God; pray the young people rediscover the beauty that fills the heart and renders life luminous; we pray because we are blind that we all see the Light and receive the Light that renders us pure and beautiful. Amen .

–*Most Reverend Angelo Comastri*

