



**United States Association of
Consecrated Virgins**

June 29, 2009
Solemnity of Sts. Peter and Paul

Volume 14, Issue 3

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

June 29, 2009– Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

Dear sisters in Christ,

In 2008, a revised version of the 1988 “Secular Institutes in the Code of Canon Law” appeared. These groupings are quite new. Secular Institutes are associations of persons consecrated to God while living in the world. Most earlier attempts at this kind of life eventually turned into actual religious communities. The first approval came in 1899 when privately vowed individuals living in the world could associate, without habit, and under the jurisdiction of a bishop. It was atheism in the 20th century which forced more creative responses to God’s call to holiness among those who needed to be a bit more discreet.

Pope Pius XII in 1947 gave the name Secular Institutes to this new form of consecration. The Sacred Congregation for Religious in the next year set forth guidelines about how such a group could be recognized by the Holy See. *Perfectae caritatis* (#11) of Vatican II says that “secular institutes are not religious institutes... [but] they involve a true and full profession of the evangelical counsels in the world, recognized by the Church.” In 1983 the New Code of Canon Law discusses these groups at length (#710-730). Canon 710 states: “A secular institute is an institute of consecrated life in which the Christian faithful living in the world strive for the perfection of charity and work for the sanctification of the world especially from within.”

Pope John Paul II, on August 28, 1980, addressing the various directors of such institutes described how their mission would be effective: “you must be disciples of Christ, you must be competent in your professional field, you must change the world from within.”

The clear desire of those in Secular Institutes has been to live as an Institute of Consecrated Life, following the charism given to the institute’s founder, and yet to live that life while being fully engaged in the world. One can see the tensions in all this, but the Secular Institutes, as well as various movements in today’s Church, seem to be working quite well.

Now much that is said here can apply to our lives as consecrated virgins: being a leaven in the world and being consecrated. And while consecrated virgins don’t live in community with one another nor follow the charism of a particular founder, they do have a distinct mission. For consecrated virgins, the living of their mystical espousal to Christ is their “charism”, confirmed at the hands of the Bishop in the prayer of consecration. Consecrated virgins offer Christ as Spouse to those in the world about them, and as such offer an eschatological sign of the world to come.

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Something Ancient . . . Something New - by Magalis Aguilera and Judith Stegman

“Be prudent and watch: keep the glory of your virginity uncorrupted by pride. Nourish your love of God by feeding on the body of Christ; strengthen it by self-denial; build it up by study of the Scriptures, by untiring prayer, by works of mercy. Let your thoughts be on the things of God. Let your life be hidden with Christ in God....Never forget that you are given over entirely to the service of the Church and of all your brothers and sisters....Help the poor, care for the weak, teach the ignorant, protect the young, minister to the old, bring strength and comfort to widows and all in adversity....Your joy and your crown, even here on earth, will be Christ, the Son of the Virgin and the Bridegroom of virgins. He will call you to his presence and into his kingdom, where you will sing a new song as you follow the Lamb of God wherever he leads you.” (suggested homily Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity.)

As we ponder the lives of the virgin-saints, we observe valiant, courageous women who followed their Divine Spouse into the reality of the worlds in which they lived, pouring out their lives in love, even to the point of death. Consecrated to Christ alone, our sisters had nourished their love of God through their self-denial, study of Scripture, untiring prayer – they had practiced capturing every thought for the glory of God. They had persevered, practicing habits leading to the *fortitude* that would ensure firmness in difficulties, constancy in the pursuit of the good, and enable them to conquer fear, even fear of death, and to face trials and persecutions. (see CCC 1808)

This virtue of fortitude, of courage, is practiced in the midst of the difficulties of daily living. One doesn't need to go far to find opportunities to practice! Choices present themselves each moment – will I shy away from saying this word or serving this person due to my own fear or insecurity; will I busy myself instead of staying in quiet prayer; will I give into a desire of the flesh instead of turning away; will I take the moment to notice my brother or sister in need; will I decide to not complain; will I decide to bring peace and encouragement to a situation.

St. Edith Stein addressed the need for attentiveness to the thoughts of our daily arousing, “The duties and care of the day ahead crowd about us when we awake in the morning (if they have not already dispelled our night's rest). Now arises the uneasy question: How can all this be accommodated in one day? When will I do this, when that? How shall I start on this and that? Thus agitated, we would like to run around and rush forth.” It's easy to give in to such anxieties, but she continues, “Take it easy! Not any of this may touch me now. My first morning's hour belongs to the Lord. I will tackle the day's work with which he charges me, and he will give me the power to accomplish it.’ And when the Lord comes to me then in Holy Communion, then I may ask him, ‘Lord, what do you want of me?’ (Saint Teresa). And after quiet dialogue, I will go to that which I see as my next duty. I will still be joyful when I enter into my day's work after this morning's celebration: my soul will be empty of that which could assail and burden it, but it will be filled with holy joy, courage, and energy.” (Pg 63-64 Edith Stein “Woman's Strength: The Way to Achieve it” in *Real Women*, edited by Sister Concetta Belleggia, F.S.P.)

Perseverance. Courage. Fortitude. “In this world you will have trouble always, but take courage. I have overcome the world.” (Jn 16:33) **It is our faith in Jesus** that gives us the courage to face illness, discord, adversity, loss of employment, death – and to face them not alone, but as those chosen to face these matters with Christ at our side as Spouse! It is of Him that the Bishop prayed on the day of our consecration: “Be their comfort in sorrow, their wisdom in perplexity, their protection in the midst of injustice, their patience in adversity, their riches in poverty, their food in fasting, their remedy in time of sickness.” Be with them, giving them grace necessary to persist in the pursuit of virtue, to follow the Lamb wherever He goes!

Bishop Boyea's letter continued

This last part, which makes a secular institute an institute is most difficult to describe but this booklet does a good job (p. 61): “the communion between the members of the same institute is essential and is brought about in the unity of the same spirit, in the participation in the same charism of consecrated secular life, in the identity of the specific mission, in the fraternity of the reciprocal relationship, and in collaboration in the life of the institute in an active way.... The fraternal life is cultivated through encounters and various types of exchanges: prayer, exchange of experience, dialogue, formation, information, etc.”

It is good for us to be aware of other kinds of consecrated life even as we celebrate our own. I look forward to seeing many of you very soon at our annual convocation in Mundelein!

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Bishop of Lansing

Council News

Current council members and officers are:

Judith M. Stegman, President, 2007 – 2009; Diocese of Lansing

Magalis Aguilera, 2007 – 2009 (appointed **Vice-President** thru 2009); Archdiocese of Miami

Louise Pare, Treasurer, 2008 – 2010; Diocese of Lansing

Twanna Bolling, Member-at-large, 2008-2010 (appointed **Secretary** through 2009) Archdiocese of Chicago.

Shalina Stilley, Member-at-large, 2009-2011, Diocese of Phoenix

Upcoming events:

2009 National Convocation of United States Consecrated Virgins:

July 8-12, 2009

Mundelein Retreat and Conference Center, Chicago

(see article page 4)

National Information Conferences:

August 5 to 7, 2009

Registrations due July 6, 2009. See enclosed flyer or visit website:

www.consecratedvirgins.org

August 4 to 6, 2010

Each year at The Cenacle, Chicago

Attention young consecrated virgins and candidates.

Visit the blog of a newly consecrated virgin for a revealing look at the exhortations of St. Ambrose to consecrated virgins. It's so relevant to our time! See: <http://sponsa-christi.blogspot.com/2009/06/st-ambrose-on-parents-and-discernment.html>

Team Announcements:

Formation Resource Development Team: Mary Kay Lacke. A re-print of the current informational packet, with a few additions, is underway for use at the present time. As described in the last issue of "The Lamp", the Formation Resource Development Team is working on the development of a formation resource handbook. It's a project for which we ask your prayers. We also invite you to participate by suggesting reference materials that may be included in the bibliography. These should be resources that you have found especially helpful in deepening your understanding of the vocation of consecrated virginity. Please email the information to mklacke@sbcglobal.net or mail to 1203 Maryland Ave., Steubenville, OH 43952-1620

Kateri Team: : Florence Sundberg – last issue's message bears repeating: "Some of our sisters are having difficulties because of the economic crisis we are experiencing in our nation, but all are dealing with this with fortitude and a sense of hope, inner peace and strength stemming from their belief that Christ, indeed, continues to stand with them as Spouse. Some have said that they may not be able to make it to our conference in Chicago this year, but will plan for next year in the hope that things will get better. All this, and all of us, and all of our people, we place in the hands and the Heart of Christ, as we continue to hold each other in prayer, with love, Florence",

Candidate Care Team: Barbara Swieczak writes: "Our Candidate Care Box now travels to Ohio where an autumn consecration is being planned by Joanne Guenther our very excited 'bride to be.' I will be assembling another booklet in order to have two traveling books since at times two are needed. If you'd like to send me your samples please send them to Barb Swieczak, 149 S. 24th Street, La Crosse, Wi. 54601"

Membership Team: Shalina Stilley. Membership renewal follow-up reminders will soon be sent to those who haven't yet renewed. Thank you to all who have already responded to the 2009 membership and funding appeal.

Newsletter Team: "Getting to know you" article for *The Lamp*, coordinated by Twanna Bolling: "In an effort to help the members of the USACV get to know one another better, we are inviting members to write a 350 to 450 word article about themselves for the USACV to publish in upcoming issues of *The Lamp*. In this article, please write anything about yourself that you would like for the members to know about you. Please e-mail your article to me at tpbolling@yahoo.com.

Also, we are still very open to receiving suggestions of what to name this feature. Please feel free to e-mail your suggestions to me. Thank you."

* **Special Announcement** *
* The 2010 **national meeting** *
* **of the Institute for** *
* **Religious Life** will be held *
* April 9 to 11, Mercy Sunday *
* weekend, on the Mundelein *
* campus (Chicago). *
* Archbishop Burke will be *
* returning from Rome to *
* speak and be the recipient of *
* their annual award. Please *
* contact Judith Stegman if *
* you are interested in attend- *
* ing – if there is a large *
* enough group of consecrated *
* virgins, we can pursue the *
* possibility of reserving hous- *
* ing together on campus. *
* Contact Judith at *
* president@consecratedvirgins.org. *

See you soon ! . . .

2009 National Convocation of U.S. Consecrated Virgins “Keeping our First Love Alive”

Our upcoming days together in Mundelein provide an important opportunity for us to deepen in our vocation, and we look forward to coming together. Watch your email and mail for travel and arrival information, which will be coming soon.

For those of you who won't be able to be with us in person, recordings of the talks will be available after the event. In these last days before our gathering, let us commit to praying for our speakers, for the consecrated virgins who will attend the convocation, and for those unable to attend this year, that the Holy Spirit might awaken in each of us the grace to keep alive our first love for Christ.

Presentations include:

Bishop Boyea: “Remembering our First Love by Being with Jesus in the Upper Room,” an in-depth scriptural look at our relationship with our Divine Spouse.

Mary Kay Lacke: “The Rite of Consecration: Mirror of the Consecrated Virgin in the Heart of the Church,” a view of the spiritual underpinning of our vocation as reflected in the Rite of Consecration of a Virgin.

Maria Luisa Oefele: “The Theological-Liturgical Meaning of the Prayer of Consecration of Virgins Living in the World,” centering on the prayer of consecration itself, as the “liferule” for the consecrated virgin.

Bishop Francis Kane will focus his inspirational presentation on intimacy in our relationship with God.

Louise Paré will offer personal reflections on our theme, as lived in the life of a consecrated virgin.

Friday evening will be “Rome 2008” night, as we reflect together on international dimensions of our ecclesial vocation, led by Judith Stegman. Saturday morning will include our annual association meeting, and Saturday afternoon will be free for visits to Marytown or other activities/quiet that attendees may enjoy.

Be sure to bring: Rome 2008 pictures and memorabilia for a display table being prepared by Barbara Swieciak; consecration photos and mementoes (especially from our newly consecrated sisters).

Please send ahead: Suggested discussion topics – please send to Louise Paré at lepocv@gmail.com, or Judith Stegman at judithstegman@gmail.com.

Any questions? Please contact Louise Paré at lepocv@gmail.com or 734-482-0893.

from the President's journal

Thank you to the many who have supported our 2009 special fund appeal to finance the ongoing work of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins, and to begin to finance some new initiatives, including a much-needed upgrade to our website. We do still need more support, and we will soon be sending a reminder appeal to those who haven't yet responded. I take this opportunity to note that it is solely through your donations that we are able to offer educational materials and conferences for and about the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world; we are not financially supported by any diocese or Church organization. None of the consecrated virgins (that I know!) are independently wealthy, and it takes a pooling of our resources to be able to offer the services we offer. Many people do offer significant contributions of time, talent, and treasure – only our loving God sees all that is so cheerfully given.

I write to ask consecrated virgins to consider giving regularly a portion of your tithe to the USACV, as an expression of personal support for our vocation. And I write to appeal to non-consecrated virgin supporters of the USACV to consider assisting our work as we do our part in the new evangelization. And I thank each of you for the generous support you have given, in prayer and financial sacrifices. It is an understatement to say that this is a difficult year, economically, in many circles, reflected in an increase in the number and intensity of appeal letters reaching our mailboxes. Behind the appeal letters are faces of those suffering physical deprivation of food, water, shelter, and the faces of those suffering from the assault on life and the family. As we face such needs, it seems to call for a new level of simplicity in our own lives, founded on an abiding trust in our loving Father, in His Son, Divine Spouse of the Church, and in the Holy Spirit, ever-present unity. May our Lord assist us as we address needs with prudence and generosity.

An update on the texts of the 2008 International Congress: I understand from the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Institute of Apostolic Life that Volume 2009 / 1 of *Sequela Christi*, is nearly ready for publication. This volume will be dedicated to the Order of Virgins, and will contain the original language texts of the Congress. Previous orders placed with the Congregation for volume 2008 / 2 (originally anticipated to include the Congress texts) will automatically be filled by volume 2009 / 1. Please contact me for order forms. There is still not a publication date in sight for the English translations of all the Congress texts.

The contract has been signed with Jim Biegel for an upgrade to our current website, consecratedvirgins.org, and Jim has begun the [continued page 7](#).



JANE CLAIRE FORTE
AN APPRECIATION



From Ann Stitt, consecrated virgin of Boston

Peace be with you!

The first time I met Jane Claire was in La Crosse, Wisconsin, at the yearly gathering of the U.S. Association of Consecrated Virgins, while she was discerning her vocation. At the hands of Cardinal Law she received the Consecration on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, in the Great Jubilee Year 2000. From the beginning, in our many conversations and various collaborations in the USACV, I recognized her as a victim-soul, one who was suffering very greatly, suffering many things, offering all to God, Who makes all things work together for the good, for those who love Him (St. Paul). Like each one of us, she had faults and failings, gifts and achievements. I respected very much her very heavy cross, and admired her carrying her burdens so graciously, being so generous despite such trials that she bore for so very long. She truly loved God. She truly did her best to serve Him, even when beset with so many difficulties and trials.

A former Religious, she left the convent in order to be the caregiver for her mother, who died nine years later. Her family has distinguished professionals; some may recall, from 60 years ago, the Banks robbery case that was tried by Judge Felix Forte. A cousin is a Sister of St. Joseph. Jane Claire was a simple, direct person, who enjoyed art and music, and liked to shop for good bargains. She sang with the Sisters of St. Joseph Choir in Boston. One project of hers was "The Lodge", an inn for folks of not much means, who could come and stay for a time of vacation in the fresh air, next to the ocean, up on the North Shore. Jane Claire loved the ocean. She was active at the Senior Center, and in her parish, as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She frequently was in the Mass with the nearby Little Sisters of the Poor (whose foundress, Jeanne Jugan, will be canonized, come October). A regional week of Retreat for consecrated virgins was organized by Jane Claire and her family. I remember how many times she freely offered information she knew would be helpful.

Jane Claire is at peace, now, at last. We join in prayer for her, with her --- even, to her --- in the holy and blessed Communion of Saints. I have read the spiritual advice, to ask the intercessions of those who have recently departed this earthly life. So energetic in life, she will be actively helping us all, in the Communion of Saints --- a consoling truth that we profess every Sunday in the Creed. There

were no hospitals, no doctors, no nurses, at the end --- I rather think she wanted no more of that, so she died at home. In paradisum deducant te angeli --these lovely words surely apply to how she died --- the angels who had protected and guided her through life, accompanied her into Eternal Light and everlasting Life -- Eternal joy is yours, as you join family and friends who have gone on before us. Rest in Peace.

From Judith Stegman:

Jane Claire Forte, Archdiocese of Boston, was consecrated June 30, 2000, and entered eternal life April 17, 2009. Consecrated virgins may remember her organization of the 2003 national retreat-gathering for consecrated virgins at the Espousal Retreat Center in Boston. Jane Claire graciously and generously welcomed retreatants to Boston; it was the year that, along with then-Bishop Raymond Burke, who spoke on the consecrated virgin's intimate spousal love for Christ, Jane-Claire gathered retreat master Father John Sassani, Sister Marian Batho, Loretta Matulich, and Barbara Swieczak to encourage consecrated virgins in their walks with Christ.

After that retreat, it was my pleasure to spend a full day with Jane Claire, visiting the ocean and "The Lodge", described above by Ann Stitt. Jane Claire also served as a member of the USACV Council in 2003-2004, and, despite being hindered in her ability to travel, always maintained a close connection by conference call and e-mail.

Cardinal Seán O'Malley's blog of May 29, 2009 notes that he celebrated Mass on May 14, 2009 with the consecrated virgins of the Archdiocese of Boston, and offered the Mass for Jane Claire Forte. May she rest in peace.



The Eucharist and Christian Virginity

By Diane Christine Farr

In the Holy Eucharist, Christ gives Himself completely and without reserve to all his people. His infinite love and His grace are made available to us. Our Lord will be able to work in our souls to the measure in which we are open to this love and grace.

Pope Pius XII has stated, "Christian Virginity is to aim only at the divine, to want to please God in everything, to think of Him continually, to consecrate body and soul completely to him."

Thus we see a striking parallel in Christ's total gift of Himself to us in the Eucharist and the pledge of undivided love offered to Him by the consecrated virgin. The utter simplicity, purity and humility of Jesus' hidden presence in the little white host is a perfect example of the virtues that must be practiced by the consecrated virgin. The Eucharist is called a pledge of glory since it is meant to be a foretaste of our union with God in heaven. So also is the gift of virginity a foreshadowing of this life of heaven where God will be all in all. By virtue of her consecration the virgin reaches beyond this present age, anticipating the eternal marriage banquet. How careful and sincere must be our preparation for Holy Communion as if we were receiving our heavenly Bridegroom for the first time. We desire through our union with Jesus in Holy Communion to acquire the sentiments of His Sacred Heart.

In Fr. Bernard Haring's book, A Sacramental Spirituality, he devotes an entire section to the Eucharist and virginity. He says, "The sacrificial presence of Christ in the most holy sacrament of the altar proclaims most clearly his most undivided love for his bride, the holy Church. In holy communion our Lord says to every soul that loves Him: 'Look I am entirely yours!' The answer of the Church, in her love, is the worship of the Eucharist in which she gives her whole attention to her divine Bridegroom. Thus the state of virginity is most closely related to the worship of the Eucharist; it is essential to the new people of God, a plainly visible and comprehensive response of the Church to the undivided love of the Lord. Not only those in the Church who have chosen virginity can love Christ; it is just that the state of virginity is the Church's principal way of proclaiming that in Christian life the important thing is an undivided love for Christ, and that she still keeps alive this enthusiastic love."

A call to love Jesus in perpetual virginity must be considered a normal response by some of the members of the Christian community to the invitation of the Holy Spirit. A woman called to consecrated virginity rejoices with humble gratitude that she has been chosen to be a bride of Christ. He is never a second choice or an alternative to something else. It is divine love that kindles our desire to preserve our virginity as a precious token of our love for the heavenly Bridegroom of the entire Church.

Fr. Haring calls the Eucharist the betrothal feast of Christ and His Church. He states; "In the sacraments and especially in the Eucharist Christ is preparing the wedding garment for his Church."

The consecrated virgin prays that through this power of the holy Eucharist she may be able to carry out her two-fold mission of prayer. In preparing to receive our Divine Spouse into our hearts we pray this antiphon from the feast of St. Agnes: "His love is the sure protection of my chastity, His touch makes me more pure and in possessing Him I will always remain a virgin."

2009 Elections

Two Council positions, President and At-Large Representative, will open January 1, 2010.

We encourage members to consider running for these leadership positions 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 these elections:

Election Process

Written notification of a member's desire to run for an open Council position must be received by midnight on Friday, October 30, 2009. Details of the election process will be announced in the next issue of *The Lamp*.

Position Terms, Descriptions and Responsibilities

President

Term: January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012.

Eligibility to run for office (Article III Section D3): Open to any current voting member who has been a voting member for the two previous years and has the necessary qualifications to carry out the responsibilities of President.

Duties (Article V Section B):

1. To convene and coordinate the meetings and activities of the Council.
2. To assure that members are kept advised of ongoing discussions and decisions of the Council.

3. To appoint ad hoc committees between annual meetings (Article VII, Section B). To assure the appointment and approval of standing and ad hoc committee members by the Council (Article VII, Section C).

4. To serve as liaison and act in the name of the Association with ecclesial and secular bodies, seeking consultation from Council and Association members whenever possible.

5. To be responsible for the editorial content of publications and other resource materials of the Association.

6. To communicate with and represent the Association to various ecclesiastical persons, institutions, and offices.

7. To be in regular communication with the Episcopal Moderator concerning the affairs of the Association, and to assist him with the preparation of his annual report to the USCCB regarding the status and activity of the USACV.

At Large Representative

Term: January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012

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 – both positions

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. Travel expenses for this meeting have not been covered by the Association budget. Within budgetary constraints, some portion of travel expenses incurred by the President for attendance at meetings on behalf of the Association have been able to be reimbursed by the Association. We invite potential candidates to discuss these matters further with our treasurer.

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!

from the President's journal continued . . .

the behind-the-scenes initial work on the upgrade. If all goes as planned, an official unveiling will be held in early fall. We welcome suggestions and help! Please contact Katie Gesto or me.

I also take this opportunity to thank you all for having given me the opportunity and privilege to serve as president of the USACV since 2004. My term as president ends in December 2009, and, after consultation with a number of you as well as with my own spiritual advisors, I have decided to run for another term. I want to encourage our members to be fully involved in the council and in the various teams and initiatives of our association – our "face" as an association of consecrated virgins is in the face and work of each one of us. It is my desire, by the grace of God, to work to create opportunities for each of us to better reflect to those about us the love of Jesus Christ, Spouse of His one, holy Bride, the Church.

... *Judith Stegman*

**United States Association
of Consecrated Virgins**

300 West Ottawa Street
Lansing, Michigan 48933-1577
USA

Fax: 253-270-5507

E-mail:
info@consecratedvirgins.org
President@consecratedvirgins.org

● www.consecratedvirgins.org



Consecration of Michele DiVito

A PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

In this Year of the Priest, O God, we ask Your blessing on those You have called to priestly ministry.

May they, above all, be faithful and passionate followers of Your beloved Son, Jesus.

May they be compassionate, as Jesus was, toward all who seek spiritual comfort and forgiveness.

May they open wide their hearts to all in need of Your merciful embrace.

May they be teachers, as Jesus was, steeped in Your Word and teaching, on fire with it, and breaking it open for all who are hungry for Your holy and transforming Word.

May they be prophets, as Jesus was, speaking courageously for what is right and true, proclaiming Your kingdom to all in need of Your grace and giving voice to all Your children, especially the poor and marginalized.

May they be prayerful, as Jesus was, hearts burning within them and set upon You above all.

From the rising of the sun to its setting, may they be the voice of praise and thanksgiving, and of faith, hope, and love to all in their care.

St. John Vianney, beloved priest of God, pray for us and for all your brother priests. Amen

Consecration announcements:

USA:

April 28, 2009 Elizabeth Byrne and Patricia Sanford, Diocese of Savannah, at the hands of The Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland.

April 29, 2009 Catherine M. Wright, Archdiocese of San Francisco, at the hands of The Most Reverend George H. Niederauer.

June 13, 2009 Michele DiVito, Diocese of Buffalo, at the hands of The Most Reverend Edward Kmiec

Upcoming consecration:

July 20, 2009: Sara S. Navarro; 7 pm; St. Michael the Archangel Church, Chicago, IL You may contact Sara by email at ajesus_pormaria@yahoo.com.