

The Lamp



United States Association of Consecrated Virgins

December 2006
Nativity of Our Lord

Volume 11, Issue 7

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

December 25, 2006 – Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Dear sisters in Christ,

The Solemnity of Christmas is, in a particular way, your feast day. Our Lord Jesus Christ was conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary by the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit. Mary remained a virgin in the conception of our Savior, and she brought our Lord into the world at Christmas, while remaining a virgin, as she had been consecrated from her youth. The virginal conception and virginal birth of our Lord Jesus Christ reveal the true nature and high dignity of your call to consecrated virginity.

From all eternity, God the Father had chosen the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of His only-begotten Son at His coming to dwell with us on earth. From the moment of Mary's conception, He preserved her from all stain of original sin, in order that her spotless womb might be the fitting vessel in which to receive the Divine Savior at His Coming. Rightly, she whose vocation and mission was to be the Mother of Christ had to be totally for Christ, from the first moment of her life and in every moment of her life. For that reason, virginity and maternity are combined, in a wonderful way, in Mary. Mary remained a virgin, directed in all of her thoughts and affections to our Lord alone, and, at the same time, she became His mother. The union of virginity and maternity in the Blessed Virgin Mary, all for the pure and selfless love of God, uncovers the wonder of your vocation and mission as consecrated virgins.

As you meditate upon and celebrate the mystery of the Incarnation, the mystery of the virginal conception and birth of our Lord Jesus Christ at Christmas, may your mind and heart be filled with new wisdom and courage, new joy and peace, in responding to your call to be totally for Christ, in all your affections, in your whole being, so that you may bring Christ to others, to the world, at all times. Mary was totally for our Lord, from the moment of her Immaculate Conception, so that she might become the Mother of God. By the grace of your consecration, may you be totally for our Lord at all times, so that you may be a true spiritual mother in the Church and in the world.

With best wishes and heartfelt prayers for a most blessed celebration of Christmas, and with a renewed request of a remembrance in your prayers, I remain

Yours in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

+Raymond L. Burke

(Most Rev.) Raymond L. Burke

Archbishop of Saint Louis

Episcopal Moderator of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins

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Special points of interest:

- Reflections of some recently consecrated virgins
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from the President's journal

"As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, this newsletter brings stories from recently consecrated virgins about their lives as brides of Christ. I've been blessed to be present at three recent consecrations and at the moment I write this article our sister Nancy Dvorak is receiving the consecration in Albany.

Through this Christmas newsletter, through these stories and the report on the reception the USACV held recently for the U.S. Bishops, it is my hope to share with all of you a taste of what I witness daily - a great and growing interest in this vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World. It's not an interest that we generate ourselves. Who can conceive, in earthly terms, of a woman's heart being moved to give a donation of her entire self to an unseen Spouse? And yet, this is what we observe, day after day, as Bishops, vocation directors, and virgins young and old seek to learn how those who are called can faithfully respond to the Bridegroom.

I hope these personal stories bring joy as you read. In the words of the Advent hymn so fittingly based on the virgins who wait with lamps alight: "Christ, her friend and lord and lover, her star and sun and strong redeemer - at last his mighty voice is heard. The Son of God has come to make with us his home. We fix our eyes on Christ alone."

..Judith Stegman

Editor's note: We invited brief stories from those recently consecrated, and are pleased to present them here. More stories will be featured in our next issue, on the Feast of Presentation, designated World Day of Consecrated Life by our beloved John Paul II. And we hope to make this an annual feature of the newsletter.

[Katie Gesto, Washington D.C., July 9, 2005](#)

I have been pondering the essence of my vocation as a consecrated virgin—why am I chosen to receive this vocation? In this first year after my consecration, I longingly expected to become very holy—a true image of the

beloved Bride of Jesus Christ.

I expected great changes after my Consecration—a holiness that would emerge that would draw many to Christ. After a year, I have noticed that my love for Christ grew cold; the graces of my Consecration were not apparent as in those early days.

Upon seeking the Lord for renewal and wisdom I came to understand a critical principle that is related to the Eucharist. Just as we do not receive Jesus only once in our life in the Blessed Sacrament, nor do we seek to receive the graces of Jesus only once in our vocation. He feeds us daily and expects us to come to him daily to receive a portion of His grace.

If we want to grow more fully in our vocation as consecrated virgins, we must cultivate a disposition that seeks to be empowered daily to live out our vocation. We may be tempted to feed on the fruits that we see in our vocation and thus become satisfied with how we are living out our vocation when in fact we are blind and we could be living such a deeper grace.

He desires to give us so much. The Father seeks to give us so much more. Let us come to him daily and ask for those same graces we received on the day of our consecration to give us life today and to bless those around us with the gifts of our relationship with Christ.

more reflections page 4



Council News

Fall 2006 elections

Judith Stegman and Magalis Aguilera were elected to the Council in the fall elections.

Current council members and officers are:

Judith M. Stegman, President, 2004 – 2006; 2007 – 2009; Diocese of Lansing

Magalis Aguilera, 2004 – 2006; 2007 – 2009 (appointed **Vice-President** thru 2006); Archdiocese of Miami

Louise Pare, Treasurer, 2005 – 2007; Diocese of Lansing

Shalina Stilley, 2005 – 2007; Archdiocese of Milwaukee

Aliceanne Sawyer, 2006 – 2008 (appointed Secretary thru 2006); Diocese of Newark.

Upcoming events:

Convocations of the United States Consecrated Virgins

August 8 to 12, 2007 Our Lady of Snows, Belleville, IL

2008: no U.S. convocation (due to International Pilgrimage to Rome)

June 24 to 28, 2009 Saint Louis area

National Information Conferences

August 1 to 3, 2007;

August 6 to 8, 2008;

August 5 to 7, 2009;

All to be held near Chicago

International Pilgrimage of Consecrated Virgins

Rome in 2008, tentatively
May 14 to 20

(travel days on the 14th and 20th)

Update from Carmen Munoz on To Love and To Serve:

The donation for the book is now \$9.00 (instead of \$8.50) to better cover postage costs. There are still a few copies available. To request a copy, please write to: ATT: Carmen M. Munoz, P.O. Box 212594, Augusta, GA 30917. Be sure to include your name and address for shipping, the number of copies you would like, and your check made payable to Carmen M. Munoz.

Available recordings

See our website for order forms for the 2006 Information Conference and 2006 Convocation talks.

Consecration Announcements:

- o **Argentina:** **Silvia Graciela Tello**, December 12, 2006, Diocese of San Justo, Bishop Baldomero Martini
- o **Czech Republic:** **Petra Panska and Marie Loskotova**, September 15, 2006, Diocese of Hradec Kralove, Bishop Dominik Duka, O.P.
- o **El Salvador:** **Maria Luisa Meza**, October 1, 2006, Diocese of Sonsonate.
- o **Nigeria:** **Martha Agbogo**, November 11, 2006, Diocese of Otukpo, Bishop Michael Ekwoyi Apochi
- o **United States:**
 - **Lori Rose Cannizzaro**, October 7, 2006, Diocese of Buffalo, Bishop Edward U. Kmiec
 - **Regina Dibb**, October 20, 2006, Archdiocese of Portland (OR), Archbishop John G. Vlazny
 - **Maria de los Angeles Exposito**, December 2, 2006, Archdiocese of Miami, Archbishop John Clement Favalora
 - **Nancy Kushman**, December 13, 2006, Diocese of Lansing, Bishop Carl F. Mengeling
 - **Nancy Dvorak**, December 16, 2006, Diocese of Albany, Bishop Howard Hubbard

Upcoming United States Consecrations:

Helen Qua, February 10, 2007, Diocese of Metuchen, Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski

Reflections

Theresa Catteruccia, Alexandria (Louisiana) February 11, 2006

The morning of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, 2006, was a glorious sun-filled day, although the temperature was in the high 30s, as the time drew near for my wedding to begin. Our Lady of Lourdes has been a significant part of my life since I was a teenager.

My preparation process lasted two years and nine months due to our Bishop being transferred, waiting for the ordination of a new Bishop, and allowing time for our new Bishop to “settle-in”.

Thank God for my spiritual director, who encouraged me throughout the process and afterwards. After the Consecration, I was bombarded with doubts of the validity of my consecration and with thoughts of unworthiness and not being humble enough. My spiritual director helped to clarify what was happening and assured me that priests and religious have the same experience.

The months following have been a time of praying, searching, growing, and surrendering more and more. Now I must continue to strive to become a wise virgin by discerning and living the will of God and remembering the promise of my Spouse, “I will be with you always even to the end of the world.”

Teresa Gross, Bismarck, February 12, 2006

My name is Teresa and I am 54, was raised Catholic, decided I would either marry or be in a convent before I was 30. Well, God had other plans for me.

I have lived the single life for 35 years. I found out about consecrated virgins when I did a Google search for a vocation that single lay women get into. I put it on the table for a year, thinking that I couldn't live up to the expectations. After a year of miraculous healings, I realized that I could meet the expectations of being a consecrated virgin. I put in my application in July of 2005, it was accepted in August and I was consecrated on February 12, 2006. God had given me my heart's desire. I know that there is usually a two year formation, but the Bishop waived it because I have had the same spiritual director for 30 years. Since my consecration, I have increased my volunteer work at my parish and I love it. I made history in the diocese as I am the first and only in this diocese.

May God bless you and keep you, ay He make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. Jesus, my Groom, I love and trust you!!

Maria de Los Angeles, December 2, 2006, Miami.

Taken from “The Florida Catholic – Miami” edition, a story by Ana Rodriguez-Soto. (Please see our website for the full story and photographs!)

“He’s my spouse,” she said. “He will belong to me and I will belong to him.”

Maria Exposito, 59, is a native of Cuba whose family — parents and five brothers — moved to the United States in 1955. Neither she nor her family was particularly religious. She had been baptized as a child but did not make her first Communion or receive the sacrament of Confirmation until 1994.

“We weren’t the type that went to church,” Expósito said. Looking back, she believes “the Lord called me since I was born, but I simply had not heard his voice until May 13, 1994.” That is when a friend invited her and her mother to visit Conyers, Ga. “That is where my search for God began,” Expósito said. “I had an experience of the Virgin. I felt the mother of God ... calling me to get to know her son.”

Three years ago, through mutual acquaintances, she met Magalis Aguilera, who told her about life as a consecrated virgin. “I understood that was my calling,” Expósito said. “I saw that I could be married to Jesus without being a religious.” *continued page 5*



Reflections

Lori Rose Cannizzaro, Bufalo, October 7, 2006

My consecration day was much like a piece of the book of Esther. Esther 4:14b "And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" I truly felt like "royalty" as I became espoused to Our Dear Lord & Savior. The scepter of the King was extended to me (Es. 15:11) as my Bishop (Edward U. Kmiec) so aptly put it, I am now an intercessor for the whole Church, especially for priests, and the needs of the world. Much like Queen Esther, and of course, Our Lady, the consecrated virgin is called to intercede to God for her people. In an even clearer way I now know that it is for all the many people who I know, who are dear to me, and those whom I will never meet in this life. We are part of the new springtime that Pope John Paul II spoke of; being called to be faithful to our Spouse and our vocation of intercession we will be part of bringing to birth many new vocations in the years to come in all walks of life. What an awesome call!

Cheryl Benzin continues about Lori Rose's Consecration: Saturday, October 7th, 2006, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, dawned as a bright and crisp Fall day for the consecration of Lori Rose Cannizzaro. About 300 family and friends gathered for the Solemn Mass of Consecration of a Virgin Living in the World celebrated by Bishop Edward U. Kmiec and assisted by

about 20 concelebrants and several seminarians. It was a fitting tribute to Lori Rose's love and devotion to those she ministers to as a cook at Christ the King Seminary. Her "boys", as Lori Rose affectionately calls the seminarians, even provided beautiful music as the Christ the King chant Schola.

In loving memory of her mother, Lori Rose had her mother's wedding dress altered so that she could wear it on her special day. I am sure both of Lori Rose's parents were smiling down from Heaven as they saw how lovely their daughter looked! Both Lori Rose and I were pleased to have Judith Stegman present for this very special occasion. It affirmed our vocation and was a source of blessing for both of us.

After the Liturgy, the parish hosted a reception in the parish hall. The hard work of Lori Rose's family was evident by the enormous number of cookies they prepared for the occasion. Even Lori Rose's 99 year old cousin baked home-made cookies for the reception! Complimenting these goodies was a delicious three-tiered cake, complete with silk lilies, which was baked by a friend. For the reception area, Lori Rose prepared an interesting display of information on consecrated virginity.

The entire day was a joyful celebration of the vocation of consecrated virginity and reflected Lori Rose's faith and deep love for her Spouse Jesus Christ!

Maria continued from page 4

During the rite of consecration, Archbishop Favalora prayed that, as Mary's virginity became "the source of salvation for the whole world," Expósito's virginity might become "very spiritually fruitful" for the archdiocese. As a consecrated virgin, Expósito commits herself to praying the Liturgy of the Hours every day, just as priests and religious do. She will pray for the archdiocese in general, for its priests, and for the intentions of the archbishop.

With the consecration of Maria de los Angeles Expósito, the Archdiocese of Miami has three consecrated virgins: Kathleen Danes, who was the first to be consecrated in 2003; and Magalis Aguilera, consecrated in 1986 in Puerto Rico but now living in the archdiocese.

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Our Sympathy

We offer our sympathy to consecrated virgin Theresa Drajin on the death of her mother. Many of us have come to know and enjoy visiting with Mrs. Drajin's as she accompanied Theresa to various events in Chicago. At the request of the USACV, Archbishop Burke has offered a Mass for the intention of her eternal rest.

May she rest in peace.

**Regina Dibb, Portland (Oregon)
October 20, 2006**

While lying prostrate in front of the altar, I felt as if I was lifted up by all the saints, led by our Blessed Virgin Mary and was presented to my Beloved, Jesus Christ. It was definitely a feeling of awe and wonderment yet humbling at the same time. Why this Son of the Eternal Father and Redeemer of the World would give such love to me, his lowly creature? I spent the weekend after my Consecration quietly, reflecting and absorbing all the graces and blessings bestowed on me.

As regard to the liturgical celebration of the Consecration, it was most beautiful and uplifting, not only to me but to all who attended. On that day, I prayed to our Lord to make me his instrument of his love and he did just that. Many people who attended the celebration told me how they were touched and inspired by the Rite of

Consecration. It was all about his love!

I was honored by the presence of so many people, particularly Loretta Matulich, my mentor, who graciously and tirelessly nurtured and guided me during my formation years.

***Regina Dibb, through the eyes
of Loretta Matulich:***

When God sets His Heart on a future bride of Christ, not even the greatest "human odds" can prevail against His will. Thus it was for Regina Dibb.

Regina's sacred history is fascinating, a marvel of God's love for her. Born and brought up in Thailand, she lived in a country whose Catholic population is only a small fraction of the total population. Yet, she was blessed to grow up in a devout Catholic family. Immigrating to the United States, the family gathered together in Oregon to make that their home here in the U.S.; however, they settled in the one state of the Union that is known for having the most "unchurched" population among all

50 states. Yet, she and her family thrived in her parish of St. Cecilia's in Beaverton, a suburb of Portland. If these two facts are not enough to convince a person that God saw to it that Regina "beat the odds" against her finding her vocation in the consecrated life, it seems that God lead her to open the Oregonian, the large metropolitan daily newspaper just on the day that that newspaper printed a feature article on Loretta Matulich's vocation of consecrated virginity. That day was the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart, year 2003.

After having searched for years for her "niche" in consecrated life, Regina excitedly recognized that she had found what the Heart of Jesus had intended for her. She ordered the Information Packet, came to meet Loretta in person and visit with her, attended the Pacific Northwest regional Information Day, flew to Chicago for the national Information Conference, met with her spiritual director, and by the latter part of year 2004, she petitioned the Archdiocese to be a candidate for the Consecration.

Martha Agbogo, November 11, 2006, Diocese of Otukpo, Nigeria

We include this excerpt from Martha's report of her consecration because the USACV was blessed to provide materials and support to Martha and her Bishop throughout her period of preparation for the consecration. The full story is available on our website or by mail from Aliceanne Sawyer (who asks that you send her a stamped self-addressed envelope.)

On November 11, 2006 I experienced the most happy, touching and unique day of my life as I voiced out my response to the bishop's call: "Now with all my heart I follow you, I reverence you and seek your presence. Lord fulfill my hope: show me your loving kindness, the greatness of your mercy." With great joy I raised my mind and heart to the Lord that I may be holy in body and in spirit.

The atmosphere around the Cathedral was joyful and splendid as people gathered. Priests, Religious and Lay Faithful including Family and Friends came from all over the diocese to witness the consecration as this was the first of its kind in the diocese.

In his homily, the Bishop explained to the people the gift of virginity and its role in the sanctification of the virgin and the welfare of the whole church. He encouraged me in the new life I am about to live as a consecrated virgin living in the world. He commended the bold step taken in making such decision despite the ridicule made about the state of virginity in our society today. He reminded me that though the consecration is irrevocable and indispensable the grace bestowed is abounding for me. As bride of Christ therefore, he enjoined me to engage in serious personal prayer – praying more fervently for the clergy, the entire diocese and for families.

I am most grateful to all who were of assistance to me in the course of my discernment process as well as the preparation stage particularly Bishop Michael Apochi, my Spiritual Director, the Sisters of the Nativity, Judith Stegman, the family of Hon. David Idoko, my family and all who were united in prayers with me.

Hosting Our Bishops

The Bishops of the United States received a personal introduction to the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world during their November 2006 meeting in Baltimore when seven consecrated virgins gathered to host an evening hors d'oeuvres reception for them. The evening itself was fruitful for the forty to fifty Bishops and virgins who attended, but many more Bishops received the personal introduction through the hand-signed invitations they received in advance and through the posters throughout the hotel conference center announcing the reception.

Lois Gandt summarized her experience with the Bishops that night in these words: "Although all of the bishops who attended our reception were very appreciative of our coming to the Baltimore meeting, what was most moving to me was to see how grateful the bishops were for our vocation as consecrated virgins. Many of them were quite effusive in expressing their gratitude for our acceptance of this call to serve Our Lord and His Church. They promised that they would keep us in their prayers, and when I responded that we also pray for them, their faces lit up with delight. During this time when our bishops face so many difficult challenges, our presence and prayerful support are truly valued."

Preparation for this event was a massive endeavor (and an expensive one), as we sent invitations to each Bishop in the United States, arranged food and drink, prepared displays, presentations, materials for distribution, and posters, arranged shipment of materials to Baltimore, and arranged for travel and accommodations for those attending. Many

**The United States
Association
of
Consecrated Virgins**
Requests the pleasure of your
company at an
hors d'oeuvres reception
in honor of our Bishops
TUESDAY
NOVEMBER 14,
2006
5:00 to 7:00 PM
at the
BALTIMORE MARRIOTT
WATERFRONT HOTEL
Grand Ballroom#8
(located on third floor)

hands, many many hands, made this successful, and I think a benefit for our Association was the experience gained from coordinating the willing efforts, the gifts and contributions of virgins from around the country. I'd like to acknowledge those who helped, hoping I don't forget anyone, simply to give a feel for what we can do together. What was most encouraging to those of us planning the effort was that each person who was asked was willing to help; sometimes circumstances precluded this, but the desire was present. And there were many others who weren't asked but offered prayer support. I wished we could have invited everyone to attend or participate in some way!

So, our thanks to Aliceanne Sawyer

for formatting and printing the invitations to the Bishops, collecting their addresses, sorting the invitations and envelopes by state and mailing them to consecrated virgins around the country. Thanks to Magalis Aguilera, Sabina Boet, Denise Farrell, Lois Gandt, Anne Gishpert, Pat Jacobs, Mary Kay Lacke, Carol Lankford, Elizabeth Lee, Francesca Riddick, Jeanne McNulty, Peggy Popkey, Catherine Shoemaker, Shalina Stillley, Julie Taube, Marjorie Uerling, and Mary Therese Wyant for taking the invitations, writing personal notes to the Bishops in your state or region (or beyond) and dropping these in the mail.

Thanks to Barbara Swieczak for putting together three intricate displays for the reception. I hope you'll all see these next year at our convocation in Saint Louis: a display with the essential documents describing the vocation itself; a display about activities and projects of our association; and a display – you need to see this one! – depicting the 1995 Rome pilgrimage and the 2008 planned international pilgrimage.

Thanks to Carmen Munoz for arranging printing and delivery of 100 copies of her translated "To Love and to Serve", to Magalis Aguilera for taking time to print 300 CD's and labels so that each "Bishop portfolio" could include the two-part talk on Essentials of the vocation by Archbishop Burke and the radio interview of Archbishop Favalora and me. [This was the one disappointment – these CD's are lost somewhere in the mail, even now. . . but we're hopeful they'll be recovered.]

Thanks to Mary Kay Lacke for assembling, editing, and printing a booklet of ten Questions and Answers *continued on page 8*

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Bishops continued . . .

about the vocation and to Elizabeth Lee for contributing to this effort. Thanks to Beth Grebe for formatting three newspaper articles onto one page handouts (the New York Times, Chicago Tribune, and Buffalo News articles) which we printed on glossy paper for distribution. Thanks to my office help for much photocopying, and to Sabina Boet for receiving deliveries of all of these and other materials at her home in Arlington, engaging her mother to begin assembly of the 100 "Bishop portfolios", borrowing a Roman Pontifical from her diocese, and transporting all to the hotel in Baltimore. Thanks to Lois, Elizabeth, Magalis, Mary Kay, Sabina, and Shalina Stilley for coming early to complete the assembly of the Bishop portfolios and assist with setup of the room, adding a personal flavor with pictures from their own consecrations.

Each Bishop who attended received a portfolio – a handy black canvas zipped portfolio, suitable for many uses, inscribed inside with our identification and website address and the words from the Rite: "May the praise of our heavenly Father be always on your lips; pray without ceasing for the salvation of the world."

Besides the materials noted above, each portfolio included a copy of our DVD "Consecrated Virgins in Today's Church", a copy of the article by the same name by Sister Sharon Holland of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life at the Vatican, a color copy of our September 2006 newsletter (with pictures from the convocation) and other descriptive articles.

A number of virgins offered specific prayers for this endeavor; Lori Rose Cannizzaro comes to mind as one who prayed and fasted during the reception for its success. Knowing of your prayers and support encouraged me frequently as I encountered challenges along the way. Surely our Beloved is faithful and desires this vocation to be known. It was an expensive endeavor! Half of the cost went directly to materials that were distributed to the Bishops or are available for future distribution to Bishops. *We would welcome contributions!* The event is being covered by donations from sponsors (individual consecrated virgins) and from Association funds accumulated from material sales. The more we're able to cover from donations, the less we'll need to tap Association funds.

Our DVD played during the reception as Bishops conversed with consecration virgins. As they entered the room, several Bishops presented the printed invitation they'd received, pointing out the handwritten note on it and asking to meet that virgin! We don't have room here to speak of each of the Bishops who came, but we will note a few.

Elizabeth Lee notes: "Bishops rejoice in the flowering of consecrated virginity. The reception hosted by the USACV was greatly appreciated. Bishop Thomas Olmsted of Phoenix was delighted to learn more about our vocation, offering support and encouragement. Bishop Thomas Paprocki of Chicago expressed a joyful confidence in the vocation of consecrated virginity as a light that illumines the Church and secular society. Cardinal Sean O'Malley OFM, Cap of Boston expressed thankfulness for the prayer life of consecrated virgins. The many Bishops who came to the reception were enthusiastic in the flowering of this vocation given to the Church. I was deeply touched by their offering of encouragement and their desire to learn more about how to foster and promote consecrated virginity in their own dioceses. One Bishop mentioned he did not have any in his diocese but was hopeful. Later he learned that a consecrated virgin would be moving to his diocese and he beamed with delight."

Mary Kay Lacke noted that it was good to host her own Bishop, Bishop Conlon of Steubenville, who arrived early intending to stay just a few minutes, but stayed much longer as he enjoyed his visit there with other Bishops. Mary Kay noted that those she spoke with were especially grateful for our prayers, particularly in light of the great challenges in their own dioceses. Mary Kay also pointed out that the reception served to bring clarification to Bishops about the distinct and unique vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world, as distinguished from, for example, those who make a private vow.

All in all, we think the reception was successful at bringing the message of consecrated virginity in a personal way to more Bishops. Questions addressed at the reception will help us focus future materials and we developed a list of suggestions for future receptions (one of which is to take some pictures!). We are considering the possibility of hosting such a reception again in 2008.

reported by Judith Stegman, President USACV