

# The Lamp



United States Association of  
Consecrated Virgins

January 2005  
Year of the Eucharist

Volume 10, Issue 1

*from Judith's journal . . .*

The time of waiting is fulfilled: the Savior is born. "Answer quickly, O Virgin. Reply in haste to the angel, or rather through the angel to the Lord. . . Speak your own word, conceive the divine Word. . . Why do you delay, why are you afraid? Believe, give praise, and receive. Let humility be bold, let modesty be confident. This is no time for virginal simplicity to forget prudence. In this matter alone, O prudent Virgin, do not fear to be presumptuous. Though modest silence is pleasing, dutiful speech is now more necessary. Open your heart to faith, O blessed Virgin, your lips to praise,

your womb to the Creator. See, the desired of all nations is at your door, knocking to enter. If he should pass by because of your delay, in sorrow you would begin to seek him afresh, the One whom your soul loves. Arise, hasten, open. Arise in faith, hasten in devotion, open in praise and thanksgiving. *Behold, the handmaid of the Lord, she says, be it done to me according to your word.*" [St. Bernard, OOR December 20]

"Through the gift of your Spirit, Lord, give them modesty with right judgement, kindness with true wisdom, gentleness with strength of

character, freedom with the grace of chastity. . . They have chosen you above all things; may they find all things in possessing you." [Prayer of Consecration from the Rite for the Consecration of a Virgin]

Through the blessing of Consecration, we are chosen as virgin-spouses of Christ and invited to bear Him to all we meet. May we follow closely in the paths he puts before us. In this issue of *The Lamp*, we bring news of sisters in the Consecration of Virgins and discuss bearing our Spouse to one another and to those we meet.  
*Judith*

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## A Little Child Shall Lead Them...

We have been soul-shaken by all the recent disasters of our global village and yet through it all there are stories that inspire great hope. One point of light in all the darkness is the fact that a little child had just studied the nature of tsunamis and how they occur. She was on the beach and saw to what an extent the waves retracted. She knew and believed what was happening and so alerted others and 200 lives were saved that day as they headed to higher ground. Another happening that really astonished me was that amidst all the debris and thousands of lost human lives the animals lived. They had a sense of the catastrophe about to descend on them and instinctively headed away from it.

"Who can know the mind of God? Who has been His counselor?" It is hard to fathom the extent of the destruction and terror and why it all came about. We don't have answers to the questions but by virtue of our consecration we do know that we are all consecrated as brides of Christ and mothers in the church. If anyone is called to bring maternal love and care to the poor and the afflicted it is us.

Maybe the reason our good God allowed this catastrophe to happen is that we might see our profound need of Him and each other and the crucial importance of always standing ready with our lamps alight. - [Jeanne McNulty](#)

## Special points of interest:

- A Special Thank You
- Greetings and Notes
- New Consecrations
- **Note attachments coming soon!**

## USACV Election Results

**Louise Pare** has been re-elected Treasurer of the USACV for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2005.

**Shalina Stilley** has been elected Council Member for the USACV for a three-year term to begin January 1, 2005. [Congratulations](#) to Louise and to Shalina, and thank you for choosing to serve our Association in leadership.

## Special Thanks . . .

### . . .to Outgoing Council Member Jane Claire Forte -

Jane Claire Forte completed a two-year term on the Council on December 31, 2004. Most will remember Jane Claire's tenure by her lively and warm welcome of us to historic Boston at the 2003 retreat for consecrated virgins. She was even prepared to have us back a second time in 2004 until

the plans were canceled due to the schedule of our Archbishop-moderator. It's not easy to decide to coordinate a national event two years in a row, and it's not easy to be asked to change plans in mid-stream, as happened last year. We do thank you, Jane Claire, for your constancy in service and love for the consecrated virgins in the United States.

## The Video – Consecrated Virgins in Today's Church

**Happily**, our new educational DVD "Consecrated Virgins in Today's Church" was completed and **mailed to each Bishop in the United States** during Thanksgiving week, accompanied by a cover letter from Archbishop Raymond Burke. Enclosed with this newsletter is an order form for copies of the DVD or videotape.

### Suggested uses for "Consecrated Virgins in Today's Church":

\*Some consecrated virgins have employed the videotape as a visual tool to accompany a **vocations presentation** given at a parish or diocesan vocational event. There is quite a bit of information in the tape, and participants sometimes wish to **purchase a personal copy** – this is good because a correct and appealing message about the vocation is more broadly distributed and because the Association builds some funds for future publishings. You may want to consider having a small supply on hand for such an event!

\*Some are **ordering additional booklets** to accompany such a presentation so that participants have the booklet for reference and discussion.

**\*Vocation offices and Delegates / Vicars for Consecrated Life in several dioceses** have ordered additional copies in order to loan or give them to women seeking information about the vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World. Consecrated virgins may want to bring a DVD to their diocesan Delegate for Consecrated Life and suggest such a use or view it with him or her to encourage further discussion.

\*For consecrated virgins working in or associated with seminaries, it has been suggested that the tape be used in **presentations for seminarians**. Please feel free to contact us if you need **complimentary copies for special distributions** such as this.

**Thanks be to God** for the successful completion of this project and may our distribution efforts now be solely for the glory of our Spouse, the Source of Life for Consecrated Virgins and for all vocations which come from and lead to Him.

Several **Bishops have written notes of thanks to Archbishop Burke** and to the Association for the new DVD / Videotape, and in a future newsletter we hope to report on feedback we have received.

We would love to **hear from you** any ideas you have for the educational distribution of the tape!

### Coming Soon!

#### Attachments or Enclosures with this newsletter:

- 1) 2005 USACV Registration Form for Members and Friends
- 2) Summary text of Judith Stegman's talks at summer 2005 Retreat Gathering in Belleville: "What Must We Do?" Members and friends are invited to read and comment upon the plans for the Association that Judith presents in her talk.

†Maria Mundi passed to eternal life December 5. She was the longest consecrated woman among us. Her funeral was held at Sacred Heart Convent in Cullman, Alabama, on December 9, 2004. Helen Groudin represented us. Some may remember her from the 1997 retreat at LaCrosse, Wisconsin. May she have eternal rest in the loving arms of her Spouse.

## 2005 National Information Conference

The 2005 USACV National Information Conference will be held August 2 to August 5, 2005, at the Carmelite Center in Illinois (Chicago Area). Theresa Marshall, consecrated virgin, will again coordinate this conference, thanks be to God. Archbishop Burke has generously agreed to present again the fundamental teaching at the conference and to be available for discussion.

This conference is particularly designed for virgins discerning or preparing for the vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World and for the pastors, spiritual

directors, and other guides assisting in their preparation. Newly consecrated virgins (or any consecrated virgins) who have not been able to attend an Information Conference have also greatly benefited from attending an Information Conference.

As awareness of this vocation grows, so do requests from dioceses for foundational preparation materials and programs. Please pass on the word about this national conference to those who may have interest. If you would be interested in coordinating a local Information

Day or Conference about the vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World, the USACV may be able to assist – please contact us.

**August  
2-5  
2005**

## 2005 Annual Convocation of Consecrated Virgins

This annual retreat gathering, sponsored by the USACV for all consecrated virgins, will be held Wednesday August 10 to Sunday August 14, 2005, at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine in Belleville, Illinois. Our theme will be in keeping with this Eucharistic year, as we seek to deepen in expressions of love with our Spouse, the Source and Summit of our lives.

Please prayerfully consider participating in the planning and leading of our 2005 convocation! A team of consecrated virgins is needed to prepare for these prayerful days during which we come together in communion with one another. Under our developing organizational structure, the annual convocation will fall under the auspices of our "Member Services" division. It is a key opportunity for us to

get to know one another personally, to pray and share together, and to spend time with our Episcopal Moderator.

**August  
10-14  
2005**

### Special Greetings and notes

The retired Cardinal of Buenos Aires, Cardinal Juan Carlos Aramburu, died on November 18, 2004. Catholic World News reported that in a telegram of condolence addressed to the current head of the Buenos Aires archdiocese, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ, Pope John Paul II paid homage to the deceased Argentine prelate for his "long life of total dedication to God and in service to the Church, living with sobriety and distinguishing himself by prudence and integrity." Loretta Matulich reminds us that he will also be remembered as a great promoter of the Consecration of Virgins as early as the 1970's.

Thanks to him the vocation in Argentina is flourishing today. Let us pray for his eternal rest.

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**Elizabeth Lee offers this prayer**

"Almighty and Beloved Father, it pleased you to send your Son born into our humanity to redeem us and lift us up to your Divinity. Jesus who comes to us as a child, accepts with joy the gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.

Jesus gives us the gift of His very Life. Father, to-

gether with your Son, through whom you have redeemed me accept the gifts you have given to me, my memory - that it may be purified and healed, my intellect - that I may think and act with prudence and wisdom, and my will - that it may be one with your Divine Will. In the name of all creatures, I ask that your Kingdom come and Your Will be Done, on earth as in Heaven."

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**Miriam from Poland** sent this greeting to a few friends from the 2003 Boston gathering: [continued on page 4](#)

## United States Association of Consecrated Virgins

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**FAX: 253-270-5507**

(There may be a charge to the sender using this number.. Faxes are delivered by email.)

E-mail:

[info@consecratedvirgins.org](mailto:info@consecratedvirgins.org)

● [President@consecratedvirgins.org](mailto:President@consecratedvirgins.org)

### Phone Intercession List – message from Aliceanne

Some of our USACV non-computer users would like to participate in our prayer intercessors notification ministry. If you are a computer user and live within the area of other USACV members and you would like to reach out to them by telephone (and have the time to do so) please E-Mail this information to [aasawyer@optonline.net](mailto:aasawyer@optonline.net). If you are a USACV member and do not have access to a computer but would like to be a part of this ministry, please send your name to Aliceanne Sawyer at 154C Cross Slope Court, Manalapan, NJ 07726. And we will try to connect the dots. Anyone wishing to be part of the organization of this "prayer tree" please let me know.

Thank you

God Bless You with Peace.

Aliceanne Sawyer

## Consecration announcements

### Poland

[Maria Banduch](#) from Lubliniec, Diocese of Gliwice, by Bishop Jan (John) Wiczorek on 8/21/04

[Anna Dabrowska](#), Archdiocese of Lublin, by Archbishop Jozef Zycinski on 9/11/04.

[Doreen Knopf](#) on 6/14/04

[Michaela Voss](#) on 6/14/04

### France

[Madeleine Veillard](#) Most Rev. Yves de Boisnigneau at St. Nicholas in Combloux on 11/20/04

[Annie Duffner](#) by Most Rev. Kratz, Strasbourg on 11/20/04

[Bernadette Michelena](#) by Philippe Cardinal Barbarin in Lyon on 12/3/04

[Dominique Massiere](#) by Most Rev. Philippe Breton in Biscarosse on 12/8/04

[Anne-Marie Fantin](#) on 12/8/04, diocese of Chablis

[Claire Dauphin](#) by Most Rev. Simon in Clermont-Ferrand on Easter Monday 2004.

[Dominique Lecroq](#)

### Jordan

[Khalida Oreiqat](#) by Most Rev. Salim Sayegh in Ader on 8/13/04

[Joumana Tannous](#) by Most Rev. Salim Sayegh in Anman on 8/20/04

### Czech Republic

[Zuzana Aneska Bachnowa](#) by Most Rev. Karel Herbst, SDB, in Prague on 10/23/04

### Argentina

[Adelina Lavaron](#)

[Beatriz Fernandez](#)

[Alicia Avila](#)

### Belgium

[Marie-Agnes Misonne](#)

### United States

[Lois Gandt](#), Diocese of Bridgeport, by Bishop William E. Lori at a beautiful Mass in her parish in Stamford, Connecticut on October 31, 2004.

*Diana Farr requests prayers as she prepares for her Consecration on February 20, 2005.*

### Notes continued from page 3

“In this very special time of year, filled with His Peace and Joy, I wish each of you, and through you all our other sisters, the gift of His Sanctity and Eucharistic presence – that each of us may be a true witness of His Healing Love and Mercy in our broken world. Keep the Faith!”

