

2021 Information Conference Report

**By Mary Kay Lacke, Diocese of Steubenville (OH)
Director, Information Conference**

The annual Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virgins Lived in the World was held virtually once again in 2021. Although there are many benefits to holding an in-person conference, those benefits seem, perhaps, to be outweighed by the benefits of a virtual conference. Without the cost and time involved in travel, more virgins from various parts of the country, and other countries, are able to participate, both as participants and as presenters.

Fifty individuals from 40 different dioceses and nine countries attended the conference, including eight consecrated virgins, two diocesan representatives, and 40 virgins who are inquiring about the vocation or are in a stage of preparation for consecration in their dioceses. The three-day intensive conference offers an in-depth look at various aspects of the Ordo virginum, time for questions and answers, personal testimonials by consecrated virgins, and prayer together. We look forward to making webinar sessions available through our online store. The sessions are listed in order of presentation:

Overview of Vocations in the Catholic Church, and Ecclesial Identification of the Ordo virginum (Dr. Judith M. Stegman, J.C.D.)

Scripture and the Witness of the Ordo Virginum, in Ecclesiae Sponsae Imago (Jenna Cooper, J.C.L.)

The Liturgy of the Hours and Prayer Life of the Consecrated Virgin (Karen Bussey, M.S.W.)

Historical Aspects of the Consecration of Virgins; Virgin Saints (The Most Rev. Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing and Episcopal Moderator for the USACV-IRC)

The Liturgical Rite of Consecration and the Marian Dimension of the Vocation (Mary Kay Lacke, M.Th.)

Mystically Espoused to Christ, the Son of God (Maria Luisa Meza, M.A.Ed.)

Living in the World and in the Local Church (Dr. Judith M. Stegman)

Personal Testimonials—Living as a Consecrated Virgin (all consecrated virgin team members)

Psychological Maturity for Living the Virginal Vocation (Dr. Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D.)

Prerequisites for Admission to Consecration (Dr. Judith M. Stegman) Stages of Preparation for Admission to the Ordo virginum (Emily Byers, M.Th.)

Feedback on the conference has been positive: “appreciated the knowledge of the women presenting (they knew their stuff!)”; “a blessing to see a variety of women presenting and to ‘get to know’ each of them a little (it’s so rare to meet a consecrated virgin, so it was really good to be introduced to so many and hear a little of their stories)”; “all my questions were answered and my understanding of the vocation and consecration confirmed (thank you for being so thorough and clear)”; “thank you for responding to this need for an association, for these resources, [and] for this information conference.”