

The Lamp

Volume 28, Issue 2 — May 31, 2023

United States Association of
Consecrated Virgins

SERVING THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY

USACV

www.consecratedvirgins.org

May 31, 2023 — *The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

To the Members of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins,

We continue our Year of the Eucharist. I look forward to being with many of you in Phoenix to reflect upon the Mass. What is our first act of worship on Sunday? Can you believe it is that opening of the Church door and walking into that space? We never worship God alone. Rather, it is as the Body of Christ, the Assembly, that we act with Jesus as our Head.

We are not just entering a building. We are stepping into a holy place, a sanctuary. St. Peter tells us that we are to come to Jesus who is a living stone and, “like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ” (I Peter 2:5).

The Scriptures always talk about us as a people. We signal this as we dip our finger in the Holy Water and make the sign of the Cross. Because it is as baptized Christians that we are able to be those living stones joined together in the House of God. Certainly, we are individuals who respond to God’s call, but we are also members of the community of the Household of Faith at the very same time.

We are the Assembly of Jesus Christ. When the priest and servers process up the aisle, they are symbolically doing what each of us have done as we entered the Church. It is a procession, a pilgrimage together on the way, which engages all of us. So, sisters, let our first act of worship be a more conscious walk into that assembly knowing that we belong there and that all the others present belong to us, as well belong to Christ.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Earl Boyea

Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Bishop of Lansing

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By Dr. Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D. God” and “blessed among women” (see Lk. 1: 42
edited by Dr. Judith M. Stegman, JCD –43).

The Blessed Virgin, Mary of Nazareth, our Model and our Mother

On this Feast of the Visitation of our Most Blessed Mother we want this article to offer a special spiritual touching to all of us consecrated virgins who are frequently asked by others: what is your charism of foundation? what is your spirituality? Some of us like belonging to a Third Order that is recognized by our Catholic Church. And yet, we have an Order and a spirituality in the *Ordo Virginum*, and we have a founder—the Holy Spirit who consecrated Mary of Nazareth’s perpetual virginity.

Our Blessed Virgin Mother was visited by a messenger and after that visit she becomes a model of love, faith, and hope for all of us and all those in His Church, that we might follow her life in union with her Divine Son—to be hidden in our doing and yet be as she was. “She is clearly the mother of the members of Christ . . . since she has by her charity joined in bringing about the birth of believers in the Church, who are members of its head” (Saint Augustine, *De S. Virginitate*, 6: PL 40, 399). She “occupies a place in the Church which is the highest after Christ and yet very close to us” (Second Vatican Council, *Lumen Gentium* 54). She is an icon of the Church, and we must live as she lived in order to join her as a witness to eternal life, as an icon of the Church.

The Visitation of our Blessed Mother with her cousin Elizabeth shortly after the annunciation depicts the great revelation of Mary’s being that was announced by the Angel Gabriel: to be the Mother of God’s Son. In the new creation of the world these two faithful women—one married and the other a virgin—both, in faith, understood that God, for the salvation of all mortal sinners, was sending in the plenitude of time, His Son, born of a woman, that we might receive adoption as God’s sons (see Gal. 4: 4–5). Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Elizabeth proclaimed Mary as “Mother of

Mary of Nazareth understood that the angel’s annunciation of the conception of God’s Son in her womb was communicated to Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s voice greeting her, the child jumped with joy in her womb and she was moved by the Holy Spirit. The first redemptive work of God made flesh, in the virginal womb of Mary, occurred with the greeting of Elizabeth’s voice on behalf of the sanctification of John who would prepare the people for His Messianic mission. The Messiah of the promise, and the precursor of the Messiah, both communicated through the words of His chosen mother. She began then and continues to be an important Mother in the mystery of salvation.

The holy Scriptures reveal about Mary of Nazareth what the Eternal Father wanted revealed about His beloved daughter Mary. He wanted to perpetuate that proclamation of Elizabeth in the daily prayers of the Church of His Son. The Magnificat, the Canticle of Mary, was sung for other chosen women in the Old Testament and now at the beginning of the New Testament our Blessed Mother herself sang the song. She accepted her motherhood of the Child and until the present time she is consumed in keeping as Mother of His Church. Her words in the Magnificat: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord . . . For he has looked upon his handmaid’s lowliness; behold, from now on all generations shall call me blessed” (Lk. 1: 46–48).

Mary of Nazareth, the Mother of God’s Son, in the mystery of salvation, continues her unique intercession, assistance, and visitation for the children of God because, “for us men and for our salvation, He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary” (Nicene Creed). “This divine mystery of salvation is revealed to us and continued in the Church, which the Lord established as His body. Joined to Christ, the Head, and in communion with all His saints, the faithful must in the first

place reverence the memory ‘of the glorious ever Virgin Mary, Mother of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ’” (*Lumen Gentium* 52 referencing the Canon of the Roman Mass).

Our Blessed Mother always receives veneration from the Church of her Son—a special veneration named “hyperdulia.” Hyperdulia is a level of veneration higher than “dulia,” which is the veneration given to the saints, and less than “latria,” the adoration given to God alone. She assents to the will of the Eternal Father in her free acceptance of His merciful plan of salvation for all of us. Eve was created in freedom and in the image and likeness of God but she did not listen to the voice of the Eternal Father; instead, she listened to the voice of the fallen angel and thus had a share in bringing about our death.

But why does Mary deserve our veneration? Because Mary of Nazareth listened to the voice of the Angel Gabriel (God’s messenger) and thus gave to the world the Life that renews all things. Mary becomes a mother through her “Yes.” “This is the crucial moment when, from her lips, from her heart, the answer comes . . . It is the moment of free, humble yet magnanimous obedience in which the loftiest choice of human freedom is made. Mary becomes a mother through her “yes.” The Church Fathers sometimes expressed this by saying that Mary conceived through her ear—that is to say: through her hearing. Through her obedience, the Word entered into her and became fruitful in her” (Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives*, trans, Philip Whitmore, New York: Image, 2012, 36-37).

The virginal vocation is rooted in the model of our Most Blessed Mother and Queen. We consecrated virgins are blessed to have her intercession. Our spirituality is specifically related to Her being in the Church, and we are not lacking a model to follow. As we meditate, we consider our vocation in its triple dimensions of “spousal union, intimate, exclusive and indissoluble, with the divine bridegroom . . . for consecrated virginity the spousal experience is

one of transcendence and the surprising humility of God. Consecration takes place through the pact of covenant and fidelity that unites the virgin to the Lord in a mystical marriage . . . The spousal union thus reveals its generative capacity, manifesting the abundance of divine grace. In imitation of the Church, consecrated virgins open themselves to the gift of spiritual maternity . . . The most splendid and harmonious integration of virginity, marriage, and maternity is realized in the person of the Virgin Mary . . . She is the perfect icon of the Church as mystery of communion” (Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, instruction *Ecclesiae sponsae imago* (ESI) 24, 25,26, June 8, 2018).

The Mother of the Church is our model; may we live the life she lived in our being more than imitating her life only in our doing. “In the *Kecharitoméne*—‘she who is has been filled with grace’ (Lk. 1: 28)—the Church has always recognized the *Virgo virginum* (Virgin of virgins), the unsurpassable prototype of consecrated virginity” (ESI 26).



Mary and Elizabeth by Carl Bloch

By Dr. Judith M. Stegman, JCD
Archdiocese of Miami (FL)

Consecrated virgins and candidates look forward to gathering soon in the Diocese of Phoenix to explore in teaching, prayer, and music, “The Voice of the Bridegroom.” Because the *ordo virginum* is “*Ecclesiae sponsae imago*,” the image of the Church as Spouse, our days will also focus on the response of the Bride to the Bridegroom’s voice. The *fiat* of the Blessed Virgin Mary is our guide to cultivating the rich meaning of the spousal union between our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and His consecrated virgins.

What characterizes this spousal union—what does it mean? The voice of the Bridegroom explains, through words in Holy Scripture and words spoken by His Bride, the Church. The letter to the Ephesians presents the espousal of Christ and the Church as the archetype for the relationship of Christian husbands and wives: wives are subject to their husbands as the Church is subject to Christ, and husbands are to love their wives as Christ loved the Church and gave himself up for her. The passage culminates with Saint Paul’s reference to the Book of Genesis and the origin of marriage—the two become one flesh: “This is a great mystery, and I mean in reference to Christ and the Church” (see Eph. 5:22–32). Saint Paul describes as a great mystery the spousal relationship between Christ and the Church that is corporeally lived in the spousal relationship between man and woman. These words are revelatory, and Jesus Himself takes them further, paralleling the “one flesh” that God has joined in marriage to the call to those who are able to accept a life of virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven (see Mt. 19:3–12 and John Paul II, *Man and Woman He Created Them*, 429–432).



Both human marriage and Christian virginity look to the spousal relationship between Christ and the Church as their model, and the ultimate distinguishing characteristic of the nuptial union between Christ and the Church is indissolubility. Cardinal Angelo Scola, in his enlightening work, *The Nuptial Mystery*, states that the very origin of the indissoluble nature of Christian marriage is found in the irreversible nature of Christ’s offering on the cross in fidelity to the Father’s plan. Likewise, he states, it is the *fiat* of the Virgin, her “yes,” that becomes “the permanent guarantee of the reciprocity of the bride in relation to Christ the Bridegroom” (Scola, *The Nuptial Mystery*, 104).

The Second Person of the Most Holy Trinity took for Himself a Bride, the Church, in an indissoluble union. This nuptial union is characterized by the two parties remaining distinct and yet joining in a fruitful, indissoluble union of love. Human marriage and consecrated virginity image this union, characterized by unity and indissolubility. Pope Pius XI could have used the same words to describe those consecrated in the *Ordo virginum* as he used to describe human marriage: “the living image of that most fruitful union of Christ and the Church” (*Casti connubii*, n. 42).

Let us listen carefully to the voice of the Bridegroom to discover the riches of who we are as brides of Christ: “While they highly esteem the sacrament [of holy matrimony], they do not imitate what is wrought in marriage, but ardently aspire to that divine union which is symbolized by earthly espousals. Holy Virginity has recognized its Author, and striving to emulate the purity of the angels, pledges itself to the bridal chamber and couch of Him who is at once Spouse of perpetual virginity and Son of a perpetual Virgin” (from the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity, #24, as translated by the Benedictine Convent of Perpetual Adoration in Clyde, Missouri, 1952.)

By Florence Sundberg
Archdiocese of Hartford (CT)

I reflect often on the speech that Mother Teresa gave at the United Nations in 1979 when she spoke passionately in defense of the baby in the womb of the mother. Over and over she kept pleading with us to love as Jesus loves, to give and to serve as Jesus does, not 'did' but 'does' because Jesus loves and serves and heals and comforts and protects and teaches others through each of us now, in this moment. Is there anything more important, more urgent, than to defend the vulnerable baby in the womb? Satan's power is spreading and his 'army' is growing more powerful as the worshippers of Satan are becoming more vocal, more active, more numerous. We hear some, but where are the voices of more of our Shepherds? Why isn't the slaughter of innocent babies being spoken about regularly from the pulpit? In Catholic Schools and communities? Is it the fear of losing members of the flock or of being mocked that keeps us silent? Those who have defended the Church and God's people have been killed for their faith and for their courage to go on speaking even when threatened with imprisonment or death. I think of Father Jerzy Popieluszko in Poland and Archbishop Romero in San Salvador. Are we willing to stand by and allow innocent babies to be slaughtered in order to be safe from suffering? I think of the Carmelite Nuns of Compiegne who went to the Scaffold because they would not submit to anti-Catholic forces - and they went to the Scaffold singing! The call to extend the legal right to terminate the lives of babies in the womb is growing and we must stand on the front line with Jesus to defend the lives of these little ones, created by God for the good of all humanity. It is not likely that we will be tortured or killed for this but we may be looked down upon as being naive and out of touch with our culture - so be it! Each pre-born baby carries the image of God within and when we defend and protect that little one we are also protecting that image of God. Inaction, silence,

and indifference mean consent. As some countries are tottering on the brink of war, we can help to create a sense of brotherhood and solidarity and a culture of peace, of respect for life if we stand together with Christ and do whatever He asks us to do. We are one in Christ, one body, so let's pray for each other that we hold each other steady and strong under the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit. May His Spirit come upon each of us and, under His blessing and grace and power, do whatever is being asked of us.

USACV and International Resource Center for the *Ordo Virginum* Leadership Team Members and Officers

USACV Leadership Team

Claire Halbur 2021-2023; Diocese of Phoenix (AZ).
(*Secretary of the USACV-IRC and USACV Online Presence*).

Francesca Riddick 2022-2024; Diocese of Joliet (IL).
(*USACV Membership and eTapestry*).

Joani McCann 2022-2024; Archdiocese of Boston (MA). (*Convocation Liaison*).

Elizabeth Lam 2020-2022; Diocese of Oakland (CA).
(*USACV Website*).

Jenna Cooper 2022-2024; Archdiocese of New York (NY).

IRC Leadership Team

Magalis Aguilera; USA, Archdiocese of Miami (FL).
(*Chairperson IRC*).

Judith Stegman, President of the USACV-IRC 2019-2025; USA, Archdiocese of Miami (FL).

Maria Luisa Meza; EL SALVADOR, Diocese of Santa Ana/San Miguel.

Renu Rita Silvano; INDIA, Archdiocese of Bombay.
Two Unfilled Positions

Other USACV-IRC Services, among others

Karen Webb 2021-2023; Treasurer of the USACV-IRC, Diocese of Rochester (NY)

Mary Kay Lacke; Coordinator of the Information Conference in English, Diocese of Steubenville (OH).

Anne Gishpert; Archivist, Diocese of Pueblo (CO).

Florence Sundberg; Prayer Chain Coordinator, Archdiocese of Hartford (CT).

Amanda Schrauth; Publication of *The Lamp*, Diocese of Rapid City (SD).

Consecration Announcements

March 25, 2023 — **Rosalynn Josephine Graf, Lynn Marie Kemmetmueller, Pamela Ann Schleicher,** and **Janice Marie Terhaar,** at the hands of the Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis (MN).

April 16, 2023 — **Mary Beth Bracy,** at the hands of the Most Rev. Terry R. LaValley, Bishop of Ogdensburg (NY).



April 16, 2023 — **Lorraine Manlolo,** at the hands of the Most Reverend Clarence Silva, Bishop of Honolulu (HI).

Dr. Manlolo wrote: “Aloha! Praise the Lord; today I was consecrated to a life of virginity lived in the world, a day I have been long looking forward to! I have attached some pictures of the event, and am so excited to be a member of the USACV. I will try my best to participate and be available for any of the USACV’s needs. I was able to meet Noemi Angeles, a fellow member, who also escorted me down the aisle with my mother. God is so awesome and good!”

See photos on next page, credited to Dann Ebina, *Hawaii Catholic Herald*

Upcoming Consecrations

June 16, 2023, consecration of **Mary Rose Rynda,** at the hands of the Most Reverend Bernard A. Hebda, at 3pm at the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Lonsdale, Minnesota, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (MN). All are warmly invited to attend.

June 18, 2023, consecration of **Elizabeth McKay** and **Madeleine Troppe,** at the hands of the Most Reverend David A. Zubik, Bishop of Pittsburgh, at 10am at St. Paul’s Cathedral, in Pittsburgh (PA). All are warmly invited to attend. A public reception will follow.

Membership Drive

Greetings in the Lord to everyone! I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who have registered as a 2023 member in the USACV. So far we have 79 people who have responded and that is a great turn out. This year you have the option to register for a three year period as well as one year which several people have taken advantage of. We plan to distribute updated membership lists during the Association meeting in Phoenix. If you haven't yet registered for 2023, maybe this little notice might encourage you to do so. As always we are grateful for your support and friendship. May the graces of our Risen Lord continue to flow and produce great fruit in our lives. Peace to you

Registration forms (paper and online) can be found on our website: <https://consecratedvirgins.org/>.

Francesca Riddick,
USACV Membership Services

July 26, 2023, consecration of **Diane LeMay,** at the hands of the Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes, Bishop of Columbus (OH), at 5:00pm in the Church of the Resurrection, 6300 East Dublin-Granville Road, New Albany, Ohio 43054. A reception and dinner will follow. RSVP to caminopilgrim11@aol.com by July 5. Dr. LeMay is working on arranging a Holy Hour at 33pm and Rosary at 4:15pm. Reduced room rates may be available for out-of-town guests; contact Dr. LeMay.

December 8, 2023, consecration of **Aubrey Coulter,** at 5:15pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita (KS).

Consecration Photos



Receiving the
insignia from
Archbishop Hebda



Lorraine Manlolo



Consecration
Mass with
Archbishop
Hebda at the
Basilica of
Saint Mary

Lorraine Manlolo with Bishop
Silva, clergy, and attendants,
her mother Shirley Manlolo
and consecrated virgin
Noemi Angeles (in green)



Rosalynn Graf, Lynn Kemmetmueller,
Archbishop Hebda, Pamela Schleicher,
and Janice Terhaar



Virgins with
Archbishop Hebda



Mary Beth Bracy and Bishop LaValley



Father Szydluk, Mary Beth Bracy,
Taryn Watkins, and Father Stitt



Consecrated virgins who celebrate significant anniversaries during 2023 are invited to submit an anniversary reflection for *The Lamp*. These anniversary reflections are popular among our readers as they convey a personal look at life lived as a bride of Christ in the *Ordo virginum*.

30 Years

Catherine Leahy
consecrated May 11, 1993
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston (WV)

Borrowing a title from that great periodical *The Magnificat*, “Credible Witness” I would like to reflect on the 30-year anniversary of my consecration on May 11, 1993.

It reminds me also of the encyclical by John Paul II “Love and Responsibility.” What a gift and responsibility it is to live the love and life of a consecrated virgin. I have discovered that even though we may live quiet, peaceful lives, somehow (at least in this Diocese of Wheeling Charleston) a lot of people seem to know about you. When I moved to Wheeling I greeted my new pastor and he said yes, I know you are from Spencer! This happens frequently when I meet a new priest. He seems to know about me. But it isn't about me, it is about the vocation, which the Holy Spirit seems to spread more abundantly than we can imagine. It says to me that my prayer, my reverence, my dress, my attitude toward others has a profound meaning. It is a “Credible Witness” to Jesus and His Church. I pray I never disappoint Him whom I love!



This was the day I had been looking forward to for a long time after having been a Religious of the Visitation Order for a number of years; having left, took care of my precious mom until her death, made private vows, and then after having heard these words from a Bishop friend, “How can you not be consecrated?” I thought, there has to be a way. I asked Bishop Foley if he knew of any solution. I knew nothing of consecrated virginity at the time, but quickly learned.

I had the privilege of meeting Judith Stegman and immediately knew what had to be done. Formation began, sometime later preparations, and then on September 26, 2013, the great day happened. The day our Divine Spouse and I were “engaged” He let me know how pleased He was and again in the middle of the Consecration prayer by Bishop Robert Baker, Jesus touched my heart in a very special way.

We are in the middle of the year 2023 and it seems almost impossible that 10 years have passed already. During those years a lot has happened with surgeries, retirement, becoming a Lay Franciscan Missionary at EWTN, and, all in all, a very happy camper.

I know Jesus now like never before and the gratitude I feel for being a part of this awesome vocation, for getting to know some of you “long distance,” for Cardinal Burke (God bless him),” for Judith, for having Jesus, our Divine Spouse right here with me . . . well there are no words that can rightly express my joy and feelings. Perhaps exceedingly Awesome and Blessed by such a gracious and holy God is a start; but as you know, truly there are no words. Thank you all for your witness and your love. In the Heart of our Divine Spouse, I write as your sister in Christ.

Give Thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His MERCY and LOVE are indeed Forever!!!!



10 Years

Judy (Patricia) Ann Peikert
consecrated September 26, 2013
Diocese of Birmingham (AL)

“Give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His Mercy and Love are forever”

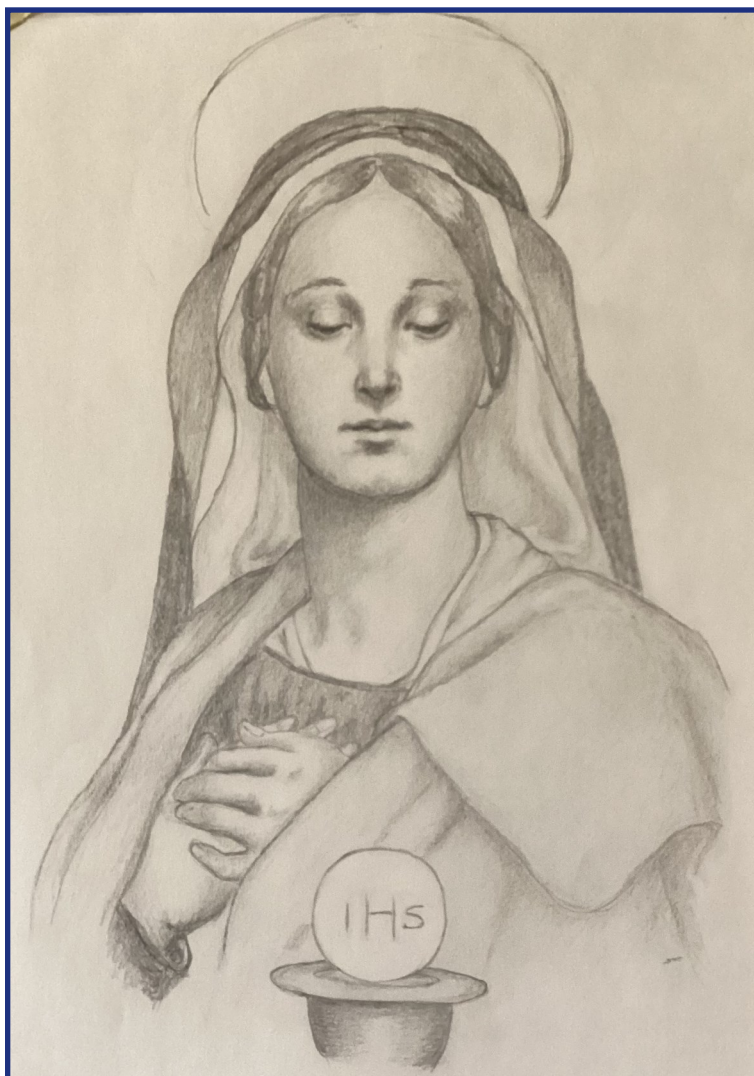
5 Years



Catherine Richie
consecrated March 24, 2018
Diocese of Savannah (GA)

On this fifth anniversary of being Consecrated to Jesus, I am so very grateful for God's faithfulness and love. Truly He

is EVERYTHING and in His Awesomeness He humbles Himself to call me to this beautiful vocation. A life set aside, blessed and consecrated to Him. Today, I thank our spouse—Jesus—for this life. Today I thank Him for our church. Thank you for the GIFT of mother Mary, our role model in loving Jesus. These past five years have flown by. I pray for the grace in these next five to be more and more attentive to Him every second of every day. In His great Mercy I am forever grateful! Thank you, Jesus!



Artwork by Marion Biestek

2023 Information Conference

Thirty four people attended the 2023 Information Conference, held virtually March 10-12, 2023. Those 34 included 31 from the United States, and 1 each from Canada, Australia, and Guam. Three participants were diocesan representatives, 9 were aspirants or candidates within their dioceses, and 21 were in earlier stages of inquiring about the vocation. Feedback has been positive from the various participants. Recordings of the sessions are almost ready and will be available at no charge to those who participated in the conference.

The conference included prayer together, personal testimonials from consecrated virgins, and times for questions and answers in addition to core presentations on the life of consecrated virginity lived *in saeculo*. Many thanks to our presenters: Bishop Earl Boyea, **Dr. Magalis Aguilera**, **Karen Bussey**, **Jenna Cooper**, **Mary Kay Lacke**, **Maria Luisa Meza**, and **Dr. Judith Stegman**.

The next Information Conference has not yet been scheduled. Shall we hold another in 2023, or wait until 2024? We moved the conference from July to March this year – is that a change we should continue? If you have feedback on these questions, please let us know at info@consecratedvirgins.org.

A Note from the Archivist

Anne Gishpert, USACV-IRC archivist, reminds consecrated virgins who have not done so to please send her a copy of your consecration certificate (providing this copy also enables United States virgins to be full voting members of the USACV). Anne also keeps the USACV "family" albums, which include mementos from consecrations. You are warmly invited to send Anne the program, invitation, holy cards, photos, or other items from your consecration. Anne especially asks those consecrated in recent years to send these so that she can update our albums. The "family" albums travel each year to our convocation, and always bring smiles and memories. You can email Anne at anne.gishpert@gmail.com.

Upcoming Issues of the Lamp

September 8, 2023 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin
December 12, 2023 Our Lady of Guadalupe
February 2, 2024 Feast of the Presentation
and World Day for Consecrated Life
May 31, 2024 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin

Submissions Accepted

If you would like to submit an article, artwork, or a reflection for consideration in a future edition of The Lamp, please email it to [Amanda Schrauth](mailto:Amanda.Schrauth@consecratedvirgins.org) at info@consecratedvirgins.org. We accept articles and artwork from consecrated virgins related to our vocation or related to Our Lady and the virgin saints. If you would like to write and submit a remembrance or memorial for a deceased consecrated virgin to be published in a future edition of The Lamp, please email it to info@consecratedvirgins.org.

Volume III of the Ordo Virginum series

Shalina Stilley, Diocese of San Diego
"Volume III, about virgin saints, continues to come along nicely and is in the editing stage at this point. If you have volunteered to write about a Saint but haven't yet submitted it, please contact Shalina at catherinestilley@gmail.com. Artists, too, are invited to contact Shalina if you haven't yet been in touch.

2023 USACV Leadership Team Elections

Consecrated virgin [Claire Halbur](#) of the Diocese of Phoenix (AZ) has accepted appointment by the USACV Leadership Team to fill the vacancy on the team. Claire will serve out the remainder of [Emily Byers'](#) term, until 12/31/23, with the understanding that she will accept nomination to be on the ballot this fall for a full three-year term to run from 1/1/24 to 12/31/26. Other virgins are also welcome to run in the election this fall - let [Francesca Riddick](#), our membership chair, know if you are interested. Thanks once again to Emily Byers for her years of good service, and we are grateful to Claire Halbur for accepting this position.

Recordings Available!

Links to recordings from the virtual sessions of the 2022 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins (held in La Crosse) and the 2022 Virtual Information Conference on the Ordo virginum, are now available. If you attended a particular conference in person or virtually, and would like to receive a link to the conference you attended, at no charge, please email info@consecratedvirgins.org with your request. If you did not attend the conference, links to the recordings are available for purchase through our online store at consecratedvirgins.org.

2023 conference recordings will be available soon!

Pray with Us! — Virtual Vespers

[Claire Halbur](#), Archdiocese of Phoenix (AZ)

Consecrated virgins and candidates continue to have the joy of gathering once every month or two, via video call, for shared prayer time. Our last virtual Vespers was held March 20th for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Guardian of Virgins.

Plan to pray with us at Vespers on Friday, September 8th to celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Prayer will begin at 9:00pm ET.



**United States Association
of Consecrated Virgins**
PO Box 442170
Miami, FL 33144

Email: info@consecratedvirgins.org
president@consecratedvirgins.org

www.consecratedvirgins.org



Visitation by Philippe de Champaigne



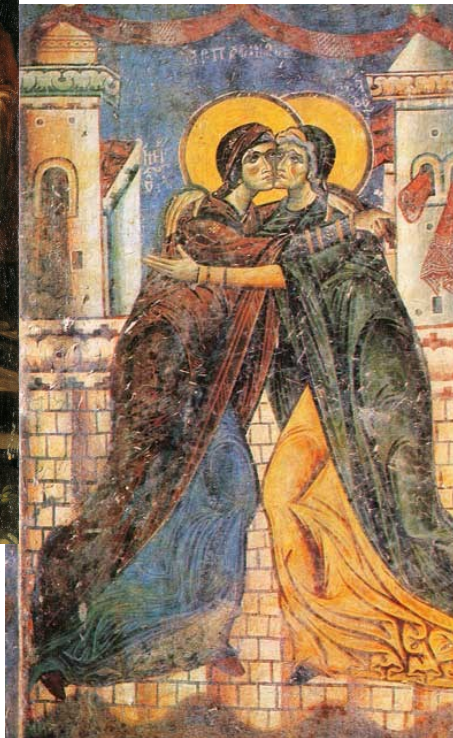
Visitation by Pontormo



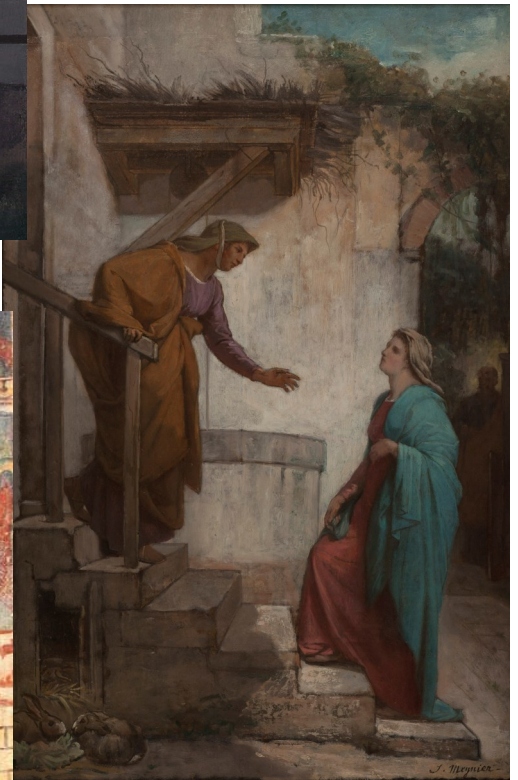
The Visitation (part of the Arras Altarpiece) by Jacques Daret



The Visitation by Gerónimo Antonio de Ezquerro



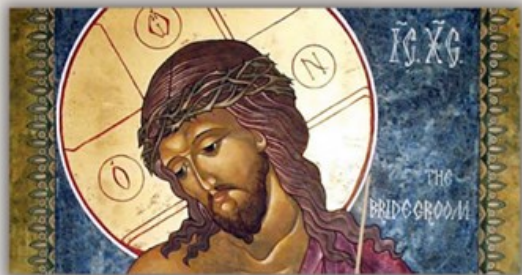
The Embrace of Elizabeth and the Virgin Mary at Saint George Church in Kurbinovo, North Macedonia



Visitation by Jules-Joseph Meynier



The Visitation by Carlo Maratti

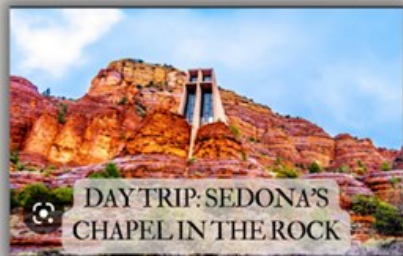


2023 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins

"The Voice of the Bridegroom"

FLAGSTAFF, ARIZONA | FRIDAY, JUNE 23 - TUESDAY, JUNE 27
OPTIONAL GRAND CANYON EXTENSION TRIP: 6/27-6/28

The United States Association of Consecrated Virgins is please to host our annual Convocation on the picturesque campus of Northern Arizona University, nestled in the high country mountains, 90 minutes from the Grand Canyon and less than an hour from the red rocks of Sedona.



There's still time! Registration remains open until June 8, 2023. The USACV warmly invites all consecrated virgins from the United States and from other countries. The invitation is also extended to any candidate for consecration who has attended a previous Information Conference and has been accepted by the Bishop of her diocese as an aspirant or a candidate to the *Ordo Virginum*.

For more information, including the convocation program, and to register, please visit www.consecratedvirgins.org. We look forward to seeing many consecrated virgins and candidates in Arizona in just a few short weeks.

Registration for livestreamed sessions will be available soon.

Questions? Contact a convocation coordinator: **Joani McCann** (joani.mccann@gmail.com) or **Claire Halbur** (clairehalbur.cv@gmail.com).