

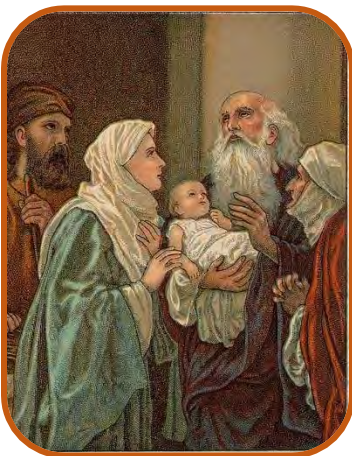
February 2, 2018 The Presentation of the Lord

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

Dear 84-year-old Anna! She was there when Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to the Temple to redeem him according to the Law of Moses. Unlike Simeon, it does not seem that she was there waiting for this moment of the arrival of the salvation of God. Rather, her life in the Temple was her day-to-day commitment of herself to a widowhood dedicated completely to God.

As brides of Christ, this daily habit, this continuous perseverance is to be the substratum of your lives. Certainly, living in the world means that you have a focus which may or may not be directly consonant with being Anna-like. After all, she did not depart from the Temple. She worshipped, fasted, and prayed. On the other hand, you carry the Temple of your spouse with you in all things and at all times. In that inner relationship you are indeed able to worship the Father of Jesus. And prayer and fasting, while perhaps not constant, are serious elements of your perseverance.

So, it seems to me, you can expect the same results which marked the life of Anna. Whether she was waiting for the coming of the Messiah or not, she was blessed with this encounter. You are wedded to this Messiah; his presence to you is even more than Anna could have expected.



Like Anna, this brings forth from you, thanksgiving to God. May thanksgiving mark your lives. And then we are told that she “spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Israel.” My sisters, may your lives, your hearts, your voices speak of your spouse to all who yearn for salvation.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Earl Boyea

Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing

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By Magalis Aguilera and Judith Stegman February 2, 2018

We are immersed in a world of technology. In itself, this is not a bad world, but each and every day we must be attentive to grow deeper in being an image of the world to come, a world which, although our limited senses cannot realize it, is the plenitude of the Father's creation. Our Divine Lord Jesus Christ revealed this world to come as the home of the Eternal Father, the world where He was going to prepare for us a dwelling place: "Let not your hearts be troubled; believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am, you may be also. And you know the way where I am going." (Jn. 14:1-4)

Consecrated virgins are an image of that "dwelling place" for this was the spirituality of our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mother of the Son of the Eternal Father, in whose being we are called to live. We contemplate her dignity as the one chosen from eternity to be the obedient Virgin of Nazareth and as the one who throughout her life, and for all time, has lived to give glory to the Eternal Father with her *fiat*: "For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for He who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is His name" (Lk. 1:48-49).

The Fathers of the Church offer an interpretation of the Virgin Mary's mission in the mystery of our eternal salvation. In the year 130 the Bishop of Lyons, Irenaeus, wrote of Mary as the "Second Eve," a theme common in patristic Marian reflections: "So also Mary, betrothed to a man but nevertheless still a virgin, being obedient, was made the cause of salvation for herself and for the whole human race. Thus, the knot of Eve's disobedience was loosed by the obedience of Mary. What the virgin Eve had bound in unbelief, the Virgin Mary loosed through faith." Eve was seduced by the speech of an angel: she fled from God in transgression of his word; Mary received good tidings by means of an angel's speech: she opened herself to God within her in obedience to his word. Although the one had disobeyed God, yet the other was drawn to obey him, that the virgin Mary would become the advocate of the virgin Eve. As by a virgin the human race had been bound to death, by a virgin it is saved, with the balance being preserved: a virgin's disobedience overcome by a virgin's obedience. (See Irenaeus, *Against Heresies* 3, 19.22.4, and "Mary Mother of God," catholic.org).

Our Blessed Mother, Mary of Nazareth, lived her gift of virginity in the way of purification, illumination and union. At her Immaculate Conception, she received the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we received at Baptism. Saint Thomas Aquinas says that four of these gifts (wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and counsel) direct the intellect, while the other three gifts (fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord) direct the will toward God. The gifts of understanding and knowledge correspond to the virtue of faith. It is in this mirror that we find the way of perfection revealed to us by our Divine Lord, to know the truth and to be free: "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (Jn. 8:32). His truth will guide us to union in His Eternal Father: "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect (Mt. 5:43-48).

We read in the Book of Proverbs: "Behold, I have described it to thee three manners of ways" (Proverbs 22:20). "And knowing that the Trinity governs every science we can assuredly say that the science related in Sacred Scripture surely must represent the Trinity. And indeed, it does. For the Wise Man has described these three ways in a spiritual interpretation: Moral, Allegorical, Anagogical. This triple sense in turn corresponds to something further: Purification, Illumination and Union (Perfection)." (Bonaventure, *Enkindling of Love* also called *The Triple Way*, adapted from the original, edited and arranged by William I Joffe, 1956, Prologue). To

live in these stages of purification, illumination and union (perfection) we need to grow in the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to us in the baptismal unction.

The gift of counsel (right judgment) corresponds to the virtue of prudence. Prudence is constancy in right judgment, that we may image and be prepared for the eternal wedding. Counsel is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and growing in right judgment involves an intrinsic purification of the corporal senses because these are the gate through which the soul grows in wisdom, understanding and knowledge. “In a more excellent and immediate way, judgment leads us to see eternal truths more surely. Judgment takes place through our reason abstracting from place, time and mutability. But nothing is absolutely unchangeable, unlimited and endless unless it is eternal. Everything that is eternal is either God or in God. If, therefore, everything which we judge with certainty we judge by such a reason, then it is clear that he himself is the reason of all things and the infallible rule of light and truth” (Bonaventure, *The Soul’s Journey into God, the Tree of Life, the life of Saint Francis (The Classics of Western Spirituality)* Paulist Press, Inc., 1978).

The grace of God illuminates the faculties of the soul so that we might live and die in perfection. A life of perfection does not involve a self-interpretation of holiness, but instead a way to holiness as a path to the eternal life wherein we will live the eternal union in the love of the Eternal Trinity. It is to this eternal life that we are called to witness and be an image as we live this mortal life: “The life you seek to follow has its home in heaven. God himself is its source” (Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity, homily).

USACV Council

Members and Officers

**Judith M. Stegman, President, 2016-2018;
Diocese of Lansing.**

**Magalis Aguilera, Member-at-large, 2016-
2018 (Appointed Vice-President through
2018);
Archdiocese of Miami.**

**Margaret Flipp, Treasurer, 2017-2019;
Diocese of Arlington.**

**Linda Ann Long, Member-at-large,
2017-2019 (Appointed Secretary through
2018)
Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.**

**Emily Byers, Member-at-large, 2018-2020;
Diocese of Lafayette in Louisiana.**

SERVING THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY



Upcoming Events Sponsored by the USACV

2018 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins

July 6 to July 10, optional extension to July 13

**MorningStar Renewal Center, Pinecrest,
Florida, Archdiocese of Miami**

(See brochure, page 6-7)

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2018 National Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World

July 31 to August 3.

**Bethany House, DeWitt, Michigan, Diocese of
Lansing.**

See announcement, page 10

By Judith Stegman

We are pleased to be receiving feedback on our recent publication, *Discernment and Formation for the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World* (see two such letters on page 5). Several United States dioceses have purchased multiple copies as they plan programs of discernment and formation for those who come seeking the consecration of virgins. The timing of the text also seems providential in light of an anticipated Instruction (see canon 34) on the *Ordo virginum* announced by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL). According to the electronic journal *Vida nueva*, Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo, secretary for CICLSAL, confirmed that the purpose of the Instruction is to clarify the identity of the *Ordo virginum* and to offer guidelines to bishops on how to accompany this reality. According to a Spanish bishop, some aspects to be addressed and regulated for consecrated virgins include the areas of discernment and formation before consecration, as well as the bishop's accompaniment of a virgin after consecration and her continuing formation. We very much look forward to this Instruction and expect that our newly published volume will be of some assistance to bishops in carrying out the guidelines in the Instruction.

I would like to offer a word of thanks to Marie Beccaloni, who in December completed her three-year term on the leadership council of the USACV. We especially appreciate Marie's serious contributions to an understanding of our vocation (see, for example, her article "Hopes for our Vocation" in the September 2016 edition of *The Lamp*) and the creative touches of beauty she designed into our convocation brochures for the last few years.

Speaking of the USACV leadership council – Dr. Magalis Aguilera and I have served in the positions of vice-president and president since January 1, 2004, having been re-elected to these positions for four successive three-year terms. Both of us have greatly appreciated the opportunity to serve the vocation in these capacities. We are actively discerning how our Divine Spouse might be leading us to serve this vocation after our terms expire December 31, 2018, and we are hopeful that eligible members of the association will come forward to take on these important leadership roles. The positions are entirely voluntary, and, in fact, a bit more than voluntary as they have required significant personal investment of resources and time. As we have announced in a mailing to members about the election, Magalis and I have ideas for how to reduce the responsibilities of these roles in order to make the workload more manageable, and we have invited anyone who may be interested in discussing this to be in contact with us.

I am often inspired by the words of St. Angela Merici in her counsels to the local leaders of the Company of St. Ursula. I'll close with these always-timely words of St. Angela, speaking of advice to be given to the virgins in the company:

Remind them to behave well in their homes, with common sense, prudence and modesty, and to be well mannered and moderate in everything. They should eat and drink, not for the pleasure of satisfying their appetite, but to nourish their bodies, thereby to serve God the better. They should be moderate as to sleep, not taking more rest than is necessary. As to laughter, too, let them be well-bred and reserved; in listening, let them take pleasure in hearing only what is honest, permitted and useful. In speaking, all their words should be prudent and mannerly, never harsh or uncouth, but refined and conducive to peace and charity. Say that I want them to give good example wherever they are, so that they may be to all a fresh fragrance of virtue, obedient and submissive to their superiors, seeking to spread peace and harmony. Above all, let them be

unassuming and kind, let all their behavior, either in word or in deed, be marked with charity, and let them bear everything with patience. With those two virtues in particular, you can crush the devil's head!

And one final closing word – much planning is underway for our 2018 Miami Convocation of Consecrated Virgins, and the extension days, which perhaps may be dubbed a pilgrimage to holy Catholic sites. We warmly invite consecrated virgins from any country, and candidates for consecration who have attended a previous Information Conference, to join us for these prayerful days of instruction, discussion, and sisterhood in the beauty of tropical Southern Florida.

Announcements and News

Election, Fall, 2018

USACV Council positions of President and At-Large Representative (traditionally Vice-President) will open January 1, 2019, for a three-year term. Eligible members of the Association are invited to consider their availability and willingness to serve in these positions. Those desiring to run as candidates for these positions must announce their candidacy in writing by March 31, 2018 to the USACV Secretary, Linda Ann Long. Additional details concerning this announcement, eligibility to run for office, and council member responsibilities, have been mailed to all registered members of the USACV.

Upcoming Issues of The Lamp:

May 31, 2018 Feast of the Visitation

September 8, 2018 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

December 12, 2018 Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

USACV Photo Albums:

Anne Gishpert, our USACV archivist, maintains the Association "Family" photo albums. These albums travel to convocations and other important events. They include photos from convocations dating back to 1996, and they include photos and memorabilia from consecrations, with a page or two dedicated to each. Please do send your consecration memorabilia for these historic albums!

Endorsements received for Volume Two, Discernment and Formation for the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World:

From His Eminence Robert Cardinal Sarah, Prefect of the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments:

"I appreciate the copies of the newly published text ... Thank you for the precious service that the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins is rendering to foster this ancient vocation, which is needed perhaps more than ever amidst the damaging confusion in our world regarding sexuality and the value of chastity.

My prayer is that your encouragement and promotion of the vocation of consecrated virginity will bear much fruit and find an echo in the local churches to assist those who desire to give their whole being to God. In her *fiat*, may the humble Virgin of Nazareth inspire many followers of Our Lord to such a joyous life of dedication and fulfillment! With the assurance of my blessing, I ask for the prayers of your association and consecrated virgins in the United States."

From consecrated virgin Dr. Renu Rita Silvano, S.T.D., Catholic Bible Institute, Mumbai, India:

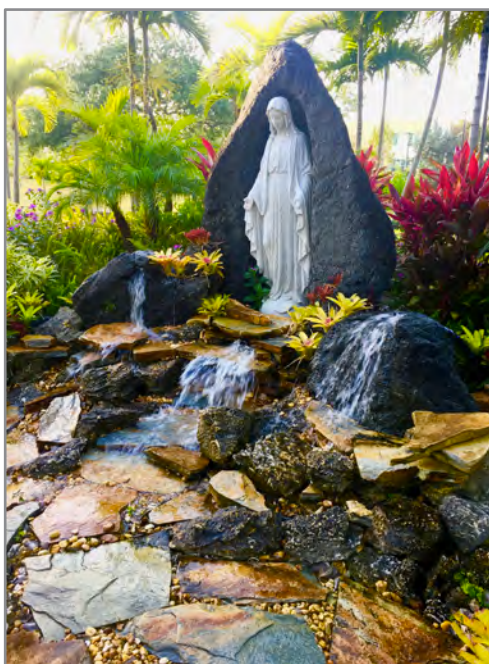
"I wish to thank you from the depths of my heart for the Vol. 2: *Discernment and Formation for the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World*. As I read on, page after page, I find myself stopping now and then with my heart literally skipping, to realize that I am falling more and more in love with Jesus our Beloved Spouse and Lord. Your writings and depth of insight in them as well as the clarity in all the explanations given is profound. Thank you so much."

2018 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins

July 6 – 10

2018 THEME:

*“Our Lady of
Charity, Model and
Queen of Virgins”*



LOCATION:
Morning Star Renewal
Center, Miami, FL

PROGRAM

- 7/6 Welcome (~ 4:30 PM)
Dinner
Holy Mass with
Bishop Boyea
- 7/7 AM: Presentations by
Bishop Boyea
PM: Visit Fairchild
Tropical Gardens
Adoration
Anniversary
Celebrations
- 7/8 AM: Mass with
Archbishop
Emeritus Favalora
(of Miami)
PM: Presentation on
this year's theme
Adoration
Talent Show
- 7/9 AM: Mass at Shrine of
Our Lady of Charity
PM: Visit Bayside
(enjoyable tourist
area on the Bay in
downtown Miami)
Lunch on your own
Boat ride on the Bay
Association Meeting
at MorningStar
- 7/10 AM: Closing Mass
with Bishop
Baldacchino
Brunch
PM: Departure at
noon for those not
remaining for
optional extension
(Flights should be
scheduled in the
afternoon/ evening.)

+ COST:

\$395 fee (+\$10 per night for private room) includes:

- accommodation (4 nights)
- all meals (except one lunch, Monday 7/9 in Bayside)
- admission & activity fees

Transport to/from airport:
van taxi cost is about \$50 each way. (We'll help arrange groups to share taxis.)

Please join us!

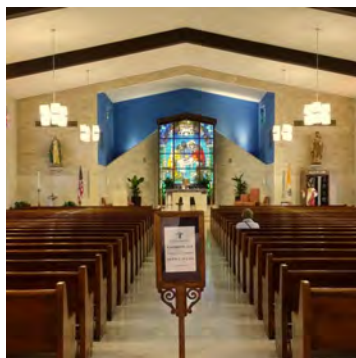
Those invited are consecrated virgins from any country. Candidates for the consecration who have attended a previous Informational Conference are also invited to attend.

In order to ensure that we have the minimum number of 30 participants, please e-mail Emily Byers (emily.claire.byers@gmail.com) to let us know your intentions about attending the convocation. Final registration forms will be available in March 2018. We hope you can join us in Miami!



COST of Extension Days:

\$330 fee, which includes:
accommodation for 3 nights, all meals (except one lunch on your own on 7/12 in Key West), transportation for day trips (as noted below), air boat ride in Everglades, and other activity fees.



Optional Extension Days

Tuesday, July 10 (afternoon) – Friday, July 13 (morning)

Tuesday afternoon 7/10

Key Biscayne: early afternoon at beautiful and historic St. Agnes Parish for adoration and parish visit.

Key Biscayne: mid-late afternoon to the beach and Bill Baggs park (lighthouse, trails).

Close with a barbecue at about 4 PM at a pavilion on the beach (MorningStar chef will travel with us).

Sunset drive back to retreat center.

Tuesday evening: free at MorningStar.

Wednesday 7/11

Morning: breakfast and morning prayer at retreat center; travel to Everglades.

Afternoon/evening: visit Everglades; airboat rides.

Late afternoon / evening Mass, Evening Prayer at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Miami.

Thursday 7/12

Morning: early breakfast; leave around 8:30 AM for Key West (3 hour drive).

Afternoon: visit in Key West, lunch, and tour on your own (with highlights noted).

Late afternoon Mass at the Basilica of St. Mary Star of the Sea in Key West.

Friday morning 7/13:

Breakfast available. Departure to Miami airport.

Lent — Sprint Toward Easter

By Joyce Stolberg



Humongous hummocks of soggy snow, useless for making snow angels, stained ash-gray by slush-splashing cars and coal dust from nearby chimneys, lethargically awaiting their inevitable demise under the lengthening, strengthening March sunshine, mirrored the charcoal cross of ashes on my forehead and framed my childhood encounters with Lent. I remember reluctantly giving up those stops at the candy store on the way home from school, placing my allowance in the "mite" (tiny offering) box instead, and stopping in my parish church to pray the Stations of the Cross. I recall wondering: *If all those luscious chocolate figurines were sold before Easter, and if I couldn't purchase or eat any until after Easter — when would I ever get to enjoy them?* We were, indeed, taught about prayer, penance, and almsgiving, both in theory and in practice, from our earliest formative years.

Now in our adult years, we should be especially conscious of practicing some form of extra penance, prayer, and almsgiving during the holy season of Lent. When Pope Paul VI adjusted the Lenten fasting requirements in 1966, he urged us “to seek, beyond fast and abstinence, new expressions more suitable for the realization, according to the character of various epochs, of the precise goal of penitence.” (Paenitemini, Ch. 2)¹ He expressed the intention that we choose for ourselves what manner of penance challenges us and evokes our innate spiritual need for sacrifice. This is true for all the faithful, and especially for the consecrated virgin who is “a surpassing sign of the Church’s love for Christ, and an eschatological image of the world to come and the glory of the heavenly Bride of Christ.”² “Penance therefore — already in the Old Testament — is a religious, personal act which has as its aim love and surrender to God: fasting for the sake of God, not for one’s own self.” (Paenitemini, Ch. 1) As consecrated virgins, we are further reminded (Introduction to the Rite of Consecration), “They are to spend their time in works of penance and of mercy, in apostolic activity, and in prayer, according to their state in life and spiritual gifts.” Our prayer, penance, and almsgiving are important and basic parts of our service to the Church and we ought to give good example to others by taking them seriously. The requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (for those under age 59) and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent should prompt us to consider what additional penances we wish to undertake to share more deeply in the sufferings of Christ, our divine Bridegroom. We can use the money saved by abstaining from “treats” to share our bread with the hungry and to clothe the naked. We can take extra time to meditate deeply on the mysteries of Christ’s passion and death. For the significant percentage of us who suffer from physical pain and maladies, offering these sufferings in union with the passion of our Savior, Jesus Christ, is a tremendous act of intercession for sinners, for the dying, and for the souls in purgatory.

In the readings for year B of the Church’s liturgical cycle, we journey through salvation history alongside the people with whom God made the major covenants. God made a covenant with Noah, promising never to again destroy the world by flood. He put Abraham to the test and then promised blessings through his son Isaac. He gave us the 10 Commandments, the rules of the covenant, through his servant Moses. He demonstrated his mercy,

¹ APOSTOLIC CONSTITUTION **PAENITEMINI** OF THE SUPREME PONTIFF **PAUL VI** ON FAST AND ABSTINENCE, 1966

² RITE OF CONSECRATION TO A LIFE OF VIRGINITY, INTRODUCTION

forgiveness and blessing to the people after their infidelity, through the unlikely person of Cyrus, king of Persia. God made a new covenant with the prophet Jeremiah, expressing his longing for a personal relationship with everyone, from least to greatest. On Palm Sunday we hear from the prophet Isaiah who foretold the sufferings of Christ. Then we hear the passion story of Christ himself from the Gospel of St. Mark, which leads us into the solemnities of Holy Week.

Without neglecting prayerful contemplation of the passion of Christ, practices of personal penance, and acts of charity, we continually center on Christ in the persons of our candidates and catechumens lining up for that final sprint toward the Sacraments of Initiation. The season of Lent with its extra rites and ceremonies was originally designed to support the early catechumens. We pray excitedly for them as they prepare for a major highlight in their spiritual journey. We also pray for our candidates for consecration to a life of virginity who are sprinting through their journey of prayer and discernment, discovering the direction of God's call to them.



© Joyce Stolberg

Consecration Anniversary Reflections

Each consecrated virgin who is celebrating a 45, 40, 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 10, or 5-year anniversary during 2018 is warmly invited to submit an anniversary reflection for publication in *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*. We begin 2018 with the first two of these anniversary reflections:

Anniversary Reflections: 10 Years

Gloria Oliver, Diocese of Rockville Center, consecrated April 27, 2008

April 27, 2018 will be 10 years ago that I became a consecrated virgin. It seems at most four years! With every passing year the inexplicable joy has become greater. It is more fulfilling than anything else can be. I am doing religious instruction and preparing children for their sacraments. How amazing it is to see them receive baptism, confession, holy Communion, and confirmation! Bringing children closer to the Lord has been a wonderful experience in my life. There is such inner peace knowing that I am mystically espoused to Jesus. He has always been my brother, my friend, and now my spouse who gave up his life

for me and opened the gates of heaven. I married my hero! No union can possibly be greater than being a consecrated virgin!

Yvonne Oliver, Diocese of Rockville Center, consecrated April 27, 2008

I cannot believe that it is almost 10 years ago since my sister and I were consecrated! Time sure flies! During these years as a bride of Christ, I have felt a deeper connection with our Divine Spouse. Throughout life's journey, He has taught me so many things about graces, endurance, patience, trust, compassion and humility. But most of all, trust through patience. As I have become closer to Jesus, I see the world and life very differently - and the change is continuous!

I am a speech pathologist and I serve mainly autistic students in a high school. They range from high functioning to severely impaired. As I serve them, I am aware that although their brain is impaired, their souls are intact. I serve people who, because of their disability, are incapable of sin. What an honor to be in their presence! Jesus had guided me in being able to teach my students and finding ways of being able to reach them.

Years ago, I taught 3rd graders - regular ed. Little did I know that I would one day be teaching special education population! It's where Our Lord put me and I'm

loving it! It took lots of patience and trust to become a speech therapist and be a part of Baldwin High School.

I continue to ask and pray to our Divine Spouse for the guidance to do His will.

Life Corner

By Florence Sundberg

Pope Francis stated: “Most believers of any faith and people of all persuasions are shocked, indeed scandalized, when they discover that trafficking occurs in every country and that it represents a most prosperous business on the planet. It is a form of slavery, a crime against humanity, a grave violation of human rights, an atrocious scourge, and it is all the more to be condemned when it takes place against children.” Human trafficking stems from the senseless killing of human babies in the womb. As Mother Teresa often said: “If we would kill the innocent baby in the womb of the mother, what would we not do?” Abortion and the sex trafficking of children are interrelated; they are crimes of extreme injustice

against the human person and we must do all we can through prayer and action to abolish these atrocious acts of violence against God’s children. Let us pray for the intercession of St. Josephine Bakhita who is the patron saint of all victims of enslavement.

Anniversary

A special word of congratulations to consecrated virgin Marianne Groesmeyer in Denmark, who celebrates her 25th anniversary of consecration today, February 2, 2018. A number of us know Marianne from meeting her in Rome at gatherings of consecrated virgins in 1995, 2008, and in 2016. I hope that our next issue of *The Lamp* will include a reflection and some photos from an anniversary Mass she has planned today in Vor Frue Kirke (Danish for “Our Lady Church”).

2018 Information Conference Announcement

July 31-August 3 is the date for the 2018 Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World. The Conference has a new location this year: it is moving from the Cenacle in Chicago to St. Francis Retreat and Conference Center in DeWitt, Michigan. This is a new spot but also an old one. Over the years, we have often enjoyed the hospitality of the beautiful DeWitt retreat center.

We encourage *Lamp* readers to promote the Information Conference among those interested in consecrated virginity as a very important and worthwhile event for anyone in the process of discerning a vocation to a life of consecrated virginity lived in the world or preparing for the consecration. The Conference is also important for those who are helping someone in the discernment process or who want to learn more about this vocation: bishops, diocesan delegates of consecrated life, spiritual directors and other consecrated virgins who may be helping a woman to discern.

The Information Conference will place emphasis on areas that have emerged as important in the discernment and formation process, most especially the preeminence of Our Lady as model and guide in the life of the consecrated virgin; the central place of the Liturgy of the Hours in the spiritual as well as the ecclesial life of the consecrated virgin; and the preparation and formation that are essential for a life of consecrated virginity lived in the world. Along with these topics, other fundamental topics concerning the vocation will be addressed. A more detailed flyer of the Information Conference will be available with the May issue of *The Lamp*, along with a registration form for the Conference.

Mary Kay Lacke

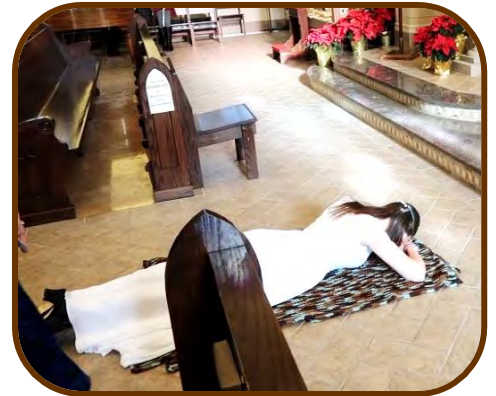
Consecration Announcement

United States:

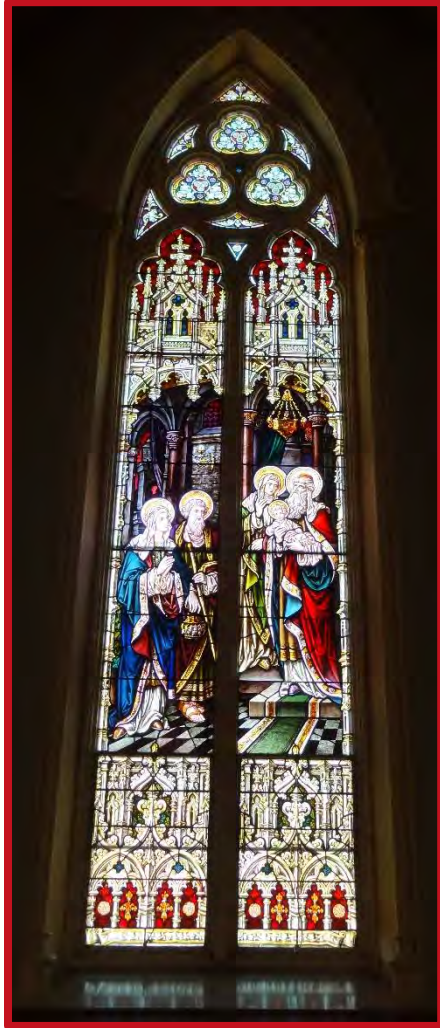
January 1, 2018 Amanda Schrauth, Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, at the hands of The Most Reverend Michael Warfel.



Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity: Clockwise from upper left: Entrance Procession: Candidate Amanda enters with two attendants; calling of the candidate; candidate comes before Bishop; candidate prostrates during the litany of the Saints; candidate offers herself to God at the hands of the Bishop; the Bishop consecrates the candidate with the prayer of consecration; consecrated virgin receives the insignia: veil, ring, and Liturgy of the Hours; Amanda and her attendants bring up the gifts at the Offertory procession. Photos courtesy of Don Schrauth, Amanda's father.



A Canticle Like That of Anna



My heart has rejoiced in the Lord: and my heart has exalted in my Lady.
For He who is mighty has done great things to me: by Mary His Mother.
There is no one holy as is Our Lady: who alone hath surpassed all.
Let the old things depart from our mouth: and let us speak with new tongues.
Exalt and praise Mary, O Sion and Jerusalem: for she is great amongst the ladies of Israel.
She makes poor and she enriches: she humbles and she exalts.
She is higher than the heavens: she is wider than the earth: is this Lady of ours.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

- From The Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary by St. Bonaventure.
St. Athanasius Press, 2014.

SERVING THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY
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