St. Basil lived in central Asia Minor (current Turkey) at a time of crisis in the Church. Arians were everywhere, denying the divinity of Christ. Most of Basil's letters were written in the 370s and convey a keen sense of the Eastern Church of his day.

In letter 207, Basil answers many false charges against him, raised presumably to discredit him and his solid teaching. He justifies the presence of orders of men or women who have decided to lead ascetic lives by appealing to the examples of similar groups in Egypt, Palestine, and Mesopotamia. His opponents must have found this flight from worldly ways disconcerting. In this context, he makes this remark about virgins: "And, if there are women also who choose to live according to the Gospel, preferring virginity to marriage, bringing into subjection the proud designs of the flesh, and living in that sorrow which is pronounced blessed, they will be happy in their choice, wherever they may be on the earth." He then adds: "But among us this is rare, since the people are still being instructed in the first principles and introduced to the practice of piety."

I find it interesting that Basil contends that a solid cultural foundation is needed for virginity to flourish. This is not surprising since without that foundation the valuing of virginity would not be even a part of the consciousness of those who are young and most tempted to give away this great gift.

His Letter 199, which became part of Eastern Canon Law, deals with the developing presence of virgins and especially those who have fallen. He describes how a virgin is to be admitted, that she be "beyond sixteen or seventeen years, being mistress of her own reasoning powers, after having been further examined, and having remained firm and persevered with prayers to be received..." If she then fall, she "should be inexorably punished." In an environment in which some parents wanted to force their daughters into ecclesial virginity so as to avoid a marriage dowry, Basil cautioned to seek out the "personal inclination" of the young woman first. Letter 217, which also became canon law, spells out the punishment: "She who has professed virginity and has been unfaithful to her promise shall complete the length of time allotted for the sin of adultery in a life spent in continence." Elsewhere, Basil calls for a fifteen year period of penance for adultery.

His earlier letter 46 is directed to a fallen virgin and undoubtedly provided the experience for his later canonical directions. This letter is quite strong in tone. He called upon this woman to recall her "glorious profession which you made before God, the angels, and men. Remember the august company, the holy chorus of virgins, the assembly of the Lord, and the Church of saints." He even recalled her practices to preserve her virginity: "your unperturbed days, your enlightened nights, your spiritual songs, the melodious chanting of psalms, the holy prayers, the pure and undefiled bed, the procession of virgins, the temperate table, and you yourself saying fervent prayers that your virginity be kept unstained." He lists all the supporting activities in which she engaged to preserve her virginity, Continued on page 5
Virginity, freedom, and fidelity are integral to the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world. The gift of virginity was given to each of us in our mother’s womb, and it is a gift that pervades even after the Church acts to consecrate the gift. The action of the Church confirms that our virginity is a particular gift received from God, more than a gift given to God, as is the case when a virgin vows her virginity to God. The consecration is from the Church because the call to live the vocation of virginity is a call from God Himself. In the words of our Lord Jesus Christ: “You haven’t chosen Me; on the contrary, I have chosen you” (Jn 15:16). (Cf. Virginity, Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM, Cap.)

Thus, the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world is a most personal vocation. Rather than being a vocation to live out a charism given to the Church by a particular religious foundress, the vocation of consecrated virginity is a personal vocation, discovered in a most personal way and confirmed by the Church herself. Consecrated virginity is a vocation to live the spirituality of our Blessed Mother, she who was called by the Eternal Father to live in fruitful virginity. She was not called to live apart from the world or to leave the daily occupations of life; she was called to freely accept as her own the will of the Lord. In taking possession of her, the Lord chose her; and in her virginal openness to the Holy Spirit, she was free to respond entirely to God’s choice. She was free to give a full gift of herself, free to say “yes,” “fiat,” “be it done to me according to your will.” We, too, are free to say, “yes,” “fiat,” “I do,” as each of us decides freely to follow Christ alone. We offer to Him the totality of our beings and in this offering He sets us apart for Him alone, keeping us in the freedom of His Love.

Jesus Christ has given us the meaning and process to freedom: to know Him and in knowing Him to live in His truth (Cf. Jn 8:33). In our spirituality as His brides, we come to freedom as we come to understand and experience the truth that our integral being, body, soul, and divine grace, belongs fully to Him. We’ve been given the grace of virginity, the capacity to know him and to do His will in complete donation of our very beings to Jesus Christ. We read in Matthew, “everyone who has given up home, brothers or sisters, father or mother, wife or children or property for my sake will receive many times as much, and inherit everlasting life.” (Mt 19:29). As the consecrated virgin gives up all that she possesses, and all that may limit her from freely following her Spouse wherever He leads, she becomes truly free - free to allow Him to fully possess her.” "The life you seek to follow has its home in heaven. God himself is its source." (Cf. Rite of Consecration)

Growth in freedom requires faithfulness to living the external manifestations of the gift of virginity. A trio of manifestations liken the consecrated virgin to the Church of our Divine Lord and Spouse: “...A virgin to keep the faith whole and entire; a bride, to be one with Him for ever, and a mother, to raise up the family of the Church” (Cf. Rite of Consecration).

The Fathers of the Church used to teach the virgins the importance of living in fidelity to their Divine Spouse Jesus Christ, and Bishop Boyea reminds us of these in his reflection on words of Saint Basil. Virgins were reminded to be faithful in every way to keeping unstained the gift of their virginity by minding the way they dressed, the places they visited, the sharing in public dances and baths where the pagan world about them might hide the light of their virginity.

We close this reflection with words of Saint Jerome, whose exhortation to the virgins of his day encourages us to an understanding of the depth of the relationship to which we are called to live, in freedom and fidelity to Christ alone: “Keep always reflective in the quiet of your room, so that you are aware of his presence in your home with you; when you pray, you speak with your Spouse; when you read, then it is he who speaks to you; and as you sleep, he will come behind the wall, will introduce his hand and touch you in your inner being, so that you wake up saying: “I have been hurt by love”; and then you will hear him say it again: ‘a garden enclosed are you beautiful spouse, my wife, an enclosed garden , a fountain sealed.’ "(Saint Jerome, quoted in B Vizmanos Father Francisco, SJ, page 795 and Song of Song 3, 4; 4, 12)
Current council members and officers are:

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

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

Louise Pare, Treasurer, 2008 – 2010; Diocese of Lansing

Twanna Bolling, Member-at-large, 2008-2010 (appointed Secretary through 2009); Archdiocese of Chicago.

Shalina Stilley, Member-at-large, 2009-2011, Diocese of Phoenix

Upcoming events:

2010 National Convocation of United States Consecrated Virgins:
July 14-18, 2010
Mundelein Retreat and Conference Center
Chicago

Proposed Theme: “Consecrated Virgins—in the world but not of the world”

2010 National Information Conference:
August 4 to 7, 2010
The Cenacle, Chicago

Team Announcements:

Formation Resource Development Team: Mary Kay Lacke sends this brief update: "we are progressing toward the preparation of a handbook on consecrated virginity. There will be more details in the December newsletter."

Membership Team: Shalina Stilley. Membership renewal follow-up reminders will soon be sent to those who haven’t yet renewed membership for 2009. Only registered 2009 members will be eligible to vote in the fall elections and only registered members will appear on the member list to be published in early November. We appreciate the support of all who have responded to the 2009 membership and funding appeal.

Newsletter Team: Twanna Bolling still hopes to launch a new “Getting to know you” feature article for The Lamp, and we hope to make the biographical essays also available on our new website. Please don’t be shy about writing a 350 – 450 word article about yourself! Email to tpbolling@yahoo.com.

Kateri Team: Florence Sundberg and Shalina Stilley are planning a new “Life Corner” feature for The Lamp, to encourage and motivate consecrated virgins in their prayer, fasting, and works on behalf of the unborn.

Candidate Care Team: On behalf of her traveling box, Barbara Swieciak writes: “Just an update on the travels of the sample box. This week I will travel by mail to Green Bay, Wisconsin to assist a candidate in her planning. And I have just returned from two stops in Ohio, Toledo and Columbus! Thank you all for your samples from your consecrations!”

Special Announcement
especially for young consecrated virgins and candidates: visit the blog of a newly consecrated virgin for an enjoyable look at St. Ambrose writings on Mary as the model for consecrated virgins. See http://sponsa-christi.blogspot.com/2009/07/st-ambrose-on-mary-model-for.html


Eighteen participants from various parts of the United States joined seven consecrated virgins and Bishop Boyea at the Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center in Chicago, August 5-7, for the annual Information Conference on Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World. Among the participants were two spiritual directors and a person from the Chicago Archdiocesan office for consecrated life who were interested in learning more about the vocation.

The three days together consisted of times for prayer and celebration of the Eucharist as well as the sacrament of Reconciliation. The consecrated virgins and Bishop Boyea presented talks centered on the nature of the vocation, the central identity of the consecrated virgin as shown in the Rite of Consecration, the place of the vocation in the life of the Church, the historical aspects of the vocation, the Liturgy of the Hours as the prayer of the consecrated virgin and some essential elements of the vocation. Personal sharing about the spirituality of the consecrated virgin enriched the group. Small group discussions as well as conversations together during mealtimes helped assimilation and discernment of the material presented.

The participants expressed gratitude and appreciation for the conference. Various ones commented on the graciousness and hospitality of the consecrated virgins serving them. They also loved Bishop Boyea’s personable and down-to-earth style especially during conferences with individual participants. Continued on page 10
Thirty-seven consecrated virgins attended the 2009 Convocation of United States Consecrated Virgins, held at The University of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois. Under the theme, “Keeping our First Love Alive”, those gathered enjoyed prayer, instruction, reflection, meeting, and convivial times together. Accompanying this issue of the Lamp is an order form for convocation recordings. Following are several personal reflections on the convocation...

Bishop Francis Kane: The experience of the Convocation was most memorable for someone who was able to spend a short time with you. There was a warmth and energy among the participants that was infectious. There was a wonderful spirit of sharing and being together that assured the participants that they were not alone in their vocation. I had the feeling that people were going home with a renewed sense of their call from the Lord and a deeper understanding of God's grace working in their lives.

I was struck by three points in particular.

First, there was great diversity in the group. There were women of all ages. People came from different ethnic and racial backgrounds. Some were from big cities and others from rural communities. Some were working for the Church. Others were employed in an incredible variety of occupations that brought their consecration into the world. Everyone's story was unique and grace filled.

Second, there was a real sense of joy in the group. People seemed happy and fulfilled in their personal life. There was a peace and contentment in their hearts, even when they told stories of facing incredible challenges. It seemed to have its origins in that deeper joy which comes from a profoundly personal relationship with the Lord.

Third, there was a deep faith among the women of the group. It was there in the liturgy. It was present in the prayer and in the discussion about the spiritual life.

I enjoyed my time at the convocation. Please know you are in my prayers and please pray for me.

Amy Shank:

In reflecting on the Convocation at Mundelein, my thoughts are very basic. It was GREAT to BE with other Consecrated Virgins from the United States and elsewhere!! The Unity of Spirit amongst us as bridge. The Camaraderie as we share the same vocation within the Church. The Acceptance as we honored our diversity. And mostly, the Fun we had as we rejoiced in our Spouse and in each other.

Jeanne McNulty:

Our gathering this year at Mundelein was wonderful in many ways, from the deeply inspiring homilies of our new episcopal moderator, Bishop Boyea, to the delightful camaraderie and lightheartedness of the fun nite headed up by Barbara Swieciak and cohorts. In between those events the time was filled with space for "catching up" on the lives and learning from our sisters in Christ. Thanks for all those who worked so hard to make it the event of joy that it was.
Beth Grebe:
The convocation this year at Mundelein was a wonderful experience! I had not been able to attend for the last couple of years and was thrilled to be able to go again - especially since the date was in July (when it did not conflict with school registration time).

There is so much that could be said about this time away with the Lord and my sister CVs. Where to begin?

Bishop Boyea's talks on returning to our first love were lively and energetic in presentation, packed with much for us to reflect upon as he broke open the meaning of the theme and the scripture passages to which he referred, and left me wanting even more. As he himself said, he had more material and reflections to offer us than he had time to present. He certainly knows how to "leave them wanting more" as the old saying goes! I took notes and have been reflecting on them already but also plan to order the CDs of the talks so I can hear again what was said and continue to reflect on all that was packed into his talks.

My experience of the campus was also a highlight. The grounds are beautiful and the buildings are full of charm. For example, in the building where we stayed, the doorknobs all have a cross on them - even the closet door! And the library's interior design in the main seating area is a wonder to behold - it could be used as a movie set for one of those "classic" library scenes. The staff I encountered in our main building were always gracious and willing to answer any questions. They really made us feel welcome and certainly seem to take the word "hospitality" seriously.

Not far away was Marytown. The church there is gorgeous, with lots of mosaics on the walls. Below the mosaics are frames containing relics - many of them from the virgin saints. The two side chapels are beautiful. There was a wonderful sense of the Lord's presence when we had some time for Eucharistic Adoration there on Saturday. Next to the church is a little walkway that has outdoor stations-of-the-cross-type displays for the mysteries of the rosary. Marytown also has a gift store/bookstore that could be a very dangerous place - as some in the group may have discovered.

Very precious indeed was the time to pray together, share meals together and get to know each other, whether meeting for the first time or reconnecting with those whom we had not seen in awhile. Laughter was evident many times, but especially so on Saturday evening when we gathered to just relax and have some fun. I can still hear the refrain to "When the saints go marching in" running in my head - but with a whole new set of words to both the refrain and the verses! And it will be a long time before I forget the "Dolan connection" picture that included the "live long and prosper" salute! What a truly blessed time it was!

Bishop Boyea from page 1 including receiving from Basil himself countless helps to achieve this goal. He points out to her the grave evil she has committed and calls upon her to reflect upon the final judgment: "there is a way of salvation, if only we will it." For, he adds, "The Father stands and awaits your return from your wandering…. He will announce a day of joy and gladness…. And if any one of those who seem to stand shall charge that you have been quickly received, the good Father himself will answer for you and say, 'But it is fit that we should make merry and be glad, for this My daughter was dead and is come to life again.'" We can only hope that she took his words to heart.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Bishop of Lansing
Episcopal Moderator of the USACV
**Other Countries:**

**Italy:**

April 18, 2009: Evalina Montelcone and Valeria Di-Giovanni, Diocese of Mazara del Vallo, at the hands of The Most Reverend Domenico Mogavero

March 18, 2009: Manila Martelli, Diocese of Cesena-Sarsina, at the hands of The Most Reverend Antonio Lanfranchi

September 13, 2008: Maria Gornati, M. Piera Longoni, Elisabetta Rossato, Genoveffa Scola, Archdiocese of Milan, at the hands of His Eminence Dionigi Cardinal Tettamanzi

**France:**


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**U.S. Consecrations**

July 20, 2009  Sara S. Navarro, Archdiocese of Chicago, at the hands of His Eminence Francis Cardinal George, OMI

August 15, 2009  Therese M. Ivers, Diocese of Sioux Falls, at the hands of The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain

Catherine Wright with her parents and brother before her consecration in April.
from the President’s journal...

I hardly know where to begin to describe the many events of the past few months that evidence the grace of our Divine Spouse!

Perhaps I’ll begin with a simple note saying that I don’t yet have a publication date from the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life for issue 2009 / 1 of *Sequela Christi*, which is to feature consecrated virgins and the publication of our 2008 Congress talks in original languages. I had understood that this issue would come out in June, but it hasn’t yet appeared at anyone’s doorstep. I’ll keep you posted.

And now to describe the graces of these past few months: First, if you read the reflections of various attendees at our 2010 convocation and informational conference, I think you may notice, as I have, that there is a deepened sense of friendship among the consecrated virgins. Actually, over the years, outsiders have often commented on the closeness of our relationships. But there was something this year that seemed to gel in a new way, evidenced in our playfulness during unplanned moments at the convocation and during our Rome ‘08 memories night. I hope the recording of that night catches the spirit of the night – none of you will want to miss hearing the personal Rome stories of your sisters! May these holy friendships continue to blossom and reflect our virginal love for Christ, our Bridegroom.

During our annual association meeting, held during the convocation, our association finances were discussed, and I reminded members that it is up to us to respond to the initiatives of the Holy Spirit and present the message of consecrated virginity to a world and Church often eager to hear. Because we are not financially supported by the Church, it is up to us to finance printing, website, material development, and travel costs connected with our mission of education and study. We can finance only a part of this cost through outside donations and sales of materials. I invite all consecrated virgins to consider giving a portion of your regular monthly tithe to the Association to directly foster the work of increasing an understanding of our vocation in the Church. We’ll be happy to make regular donor envelopes available to you, and will set up a method for direct deposit if anyone expresses interest. Thank you for your support!

Since the convocation, I’ve had the privilege to attend the consecrations of Sara Navarro and Therese Ivers, two young, beautiful, and serious brides of our Lord Jesus Christ. And I’ve celebrated my own sixteenth anniversary of consecration, marked with deliveries of physical flowers, and heavenly flowers of divine grace. The summer closes with me continuing to work on our various projects, including the update of the USACV website, and hoping that these projects can progress more quickly. Your prayers, suggestions, and offers of assistance are always welcome.

Appearing on EWTN’s *Life on the Rock* was a highlight for me personally, as well as for our vocation, and I sincerely thank all of you for your prayers and words of encouragement. Judging from the number of new inquiries that came into both our USACV and the Vocation Tree websites, and the surprising number of questions raised to EWTN, there was quite a bit of interest sparked by that televised conversation. It wasn’t perfect or an all-encompassing description of our vocation, but I think a good message came across, particularly in comparing our vocation to that of the married. Copies of the DVD will soon be made available on our website, or you may contact me directly to place an order.

Through the rite of consecration of a woman living in the world to a life of virginity, the woman is set aside as a sacred person – that is, she is given over to God exclusively. And yet she lives this consecration fully in the world, as did the Blessed Virgin Mary. A number of our members have asked that we explore more deeply the meaning of living out our consecration in the world, and thus we are proposing as the theme for next year’s convocation: “Consecrated Virgins – in the world, but not of the world.” We welcome your reflections and questions for discussion.

*Judith Stegman*
Preparing For The Wedding Feast
By Diane Christine Farr

In the rite of the consecration of virgins the Bishop says, “Receive the ring that marks you as a bride of Christ. Keep unstained your fidelity to your Bridegroom that you may one day be admitted to the wedding feast of everlasting joy.”

Our whole life should be a careful preparation for this eternal wedding feast. The joy begins for us now through our solemn espousals to Christ. We have been set aside as sacred persons through our consecration. In prayer we ponder the meaning of this holiness and this communion with our Lord to which we have been called. The consecrated virgin understands her virginity to be something precious and sacred since it is given completely to Jesus with our undivided love. Every aspect of our lives needs to be dedicated to this perfect fidelity to our Bridegroom. In the course of each day we frequently turn our hearts toward Him so that we may be more keenly aware of his presence and his direction for our lives. The interior of our heart has become a sacred space where we allow ourselves to be open to all that our beloved wishes to reveal to us.

Our divine Spouse is the mirror of all perfection. It is through our union with Him that we will receive the infused virtues as well as the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. In Fr. Bernard Haring’s book, A Sacramental Spirituality, he states; “Virginity is brought about by the Spirit; it is a gift of the Spirit of the glorified Christ, it is brought about by the Holy Spirit.” We have come to appreciate that the beautiful and unique gift of this life of virginity is the special way in which we have been called to love and glorify God. Our joy is to be found in the perfect fulfillment of the will of the Father in living out our particular vocation.

Fr. Haring further states; “In all the sacraments, the powers at work in this final age are present in effective symbols of grace, this is particularly true of the Eucharist, where the glorified Lord who is to come once again is present Himself. Christian virginity of course, is not a sacrament, and yet is higher than the sacrament of marriage for it is an eschatological reality, brought about by God’s grace given in baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist so that in a certain sense it goes beyond the sacramental signs. In the state of virginity the marriage with Christ exists in a fuller truth and reality… thus virginity is not a sacrament just as Christ in his glory is no longer a sacrament. Virginity anticipates and points to the marriage feast of heaven, of which we have the promise and the pledge in the most holy Eucharist.”

Just as Christ is fully present to each person who receives Him in the holy Eucharist so also will He be completely present to each one of us in heaven. We see an earthly example of this mystery in the far-reaching effects of the rays of the sun. We should view every joy and trial of our lives as opportunities to grow in love that we may be better prepared to enter the full presence of God in the kingdom of heaven. May Mary most holy, the queen of virgins guide us and clothe us with her own purity that we may be ready to receive the eternal embrace of Jesus our heavenly Spouse. It is through her gentle assistance that we will keep the lamp of divine love ever burning in our hearts.

The wedding garment

What is this wedding garment or nuptial robe? The apostle Paul says: «The aim of this instruction is love from a pure heart, a good conscience and a sincere faith» (1Tm 1,5). Here is the nuptial robe! It's not a question of any kind of love since we often see people with a bad conscience loving one another. People who abandon themselves to robbery and evil, who attract to themselves the love of actors, charioteers and gladiators, generally love amongst themselves but not with the charity that arises from a pure heart, a good conscience and unfeigned faith. Now it is this latter kind of charity that represents the nuptial robe. So, you who haven't yet done so, put your wedding garment on. You have already entered the banqueting hall, you are about to approach the Lord's table, but as yet you do not have a wedding garment in the bridegroom's honor: you are still looking for your own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. The wedding garment is worn in honor of the nuptial union, that is to say, of the Bridegroom and the Bride. The Bridegroom, you know: he is Jesus Christ; the Bride, you know: she is the Church (Eph 5,32). Show respect to the one who is wed and also to him who weds her.

Submitted by Aliceanne Sawyer: Re-printed from The Daily Gospel (www.dailygospel.org) Commentary of the day, August 20, 2009; Saint Augustine (354-430), Bishop of Hippo (North Africa) et Doctor of the Church; Sermon 90, 5-6; PL 38-39, 561-563
New quarterly schedule for The Lamp. At our annual USACV association meeting, held during the convocation, there was consensus with the council’s proposal that we begin to issue The Lamp quarterly, at regular times of year. To that end, we have decide upon the following schedule. The schedule isn’t precisely every three months, but we think it is a pattern that will work well with our natural schedule of activities. Articles for The Lamp are due ten days before publication:

- February 2, Feast of the Presentation and World Day of Consecrated Life
- Around June 2, on a seasonal feastday (2010: May 30, 2010 Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity)
- September 8, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- December 12, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Next issue of The Lamp, your submissions are invited! Following the new publication schedule, the next issue of The Lamp will be December 12, 2009, Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Submissions are due in electronic format by December 2, 2009. For December, we especially invite:

- Consecration stories from those consecrated within the past year (December ’08 to November ’09) and from those celebrating significant anniversaries. These stories are to be personal reflections on any aspect related to your consecration to a life of virginity for a woman living in the world.
- Additional reflections on convocation 2009

A new feature column? The suggestion was made at our 2009 annual association meeting that we introduce a new column in The Lamp on innovative ways that the Holy Spirit is inviting consecrated virgins to live and express their vocations in the world. This would also serve as a good lead-in to our 2010 convocation theme, “In the World, but Not of the World”, and we invite anyone to submit ideas, short or long, for this possible column.

USACV members will soon be receiving minutes of the 2009 annual leadership council meeting and the annual USACV membership meeting. Updated membership lists will be available in early early November.

Order forms are now available for recordings from the 2009 Convocation of United States consecrated virgins and from the 2009 National Information Conference. Also available are DVD’s of the recent EWTN appearance of Judith Stegman on Life on the Rock.

The 2010 national meeting of the Institute for Religious Life will be held April 9 to 11, Mercy Sunday weekend, on the Mundelein campus (Chicago). Archbishop Raymond L. Burke will be returning from Rome to speak and be the annual award recipient. Please contact Judith Stegman if you are interested in attending, as we may be able to schedule time for consecrated virgins to greet Archbishop Burke. We could also pursue the possibility of reserving housing together on campus, if enough people are interested.
USACV Elections Fall 2009

Two Council positions, President and At-Large Representative, will open January 1, 2010. We encourage members to consider running for these leadership positions in the association. Details of our governing structure can be found in the organizational statutes and bylaws of the USACV, which are available upon request. Detailed descriptions of the terms, duties, and responsibilities of the President and At-Large Representative positions can be found in the June 29, 2009 issue of The Lamp.

In summary, what you need to know for the Fall 2009 election:

Election Process

Written notification of a member’s desire to run for either of the open Council positions must be received by a USACV Council member by midnight on Saturday, October 24, 2009. We encourage each candidate to also submit a biographical statement, including remarks about why she desires to serve in the position.

Ballots (and candidate biographies) will be mailed to all USACV members in early November 2009. Please note that voting members of the association are consecrated virgins living under the jurisdiction of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops who have a certificate of consecration on file with the USACV and who are registered as members in 2009. If you have not yet registered as a member in 2009, now would be a good time to do so!

Ballots will be due back to our Elections Team leader, Helen Simon, by Friday, December 4, 2009. Ballots will be opened and counted in the presence of an independent party and notification of the results will be made to the USACV President, the newly elected, and all candidates. Results of the election will then be published on the USACV website and announced in the December 12, 2009 newsletter.

Please Consider Running for Office

Please do consider running for office, and encourage other members to run – sometimes all it takes is a personal word!

2009 Information Conference

Continued . . .

They found that the information shared throughout the conference was very helpful. They experienced a fellowship among all the participants, including the team that served them. A highlight for everybody was Sara Navarro’s sharing about her July 20, 2009 consecration as a virgin. The detailing of her spiritual journey to the day of her consecration profoundly inspired her audience.

In reflection on the Information Conference, the consecrated virgins who served expressed their awe concerning the power of the Holy Spirit moving hearts throughout the time of the Conference. They felt a renewal of their own vocation through witnessing the transformation that took place among those they served.

Consecrated virgins gather in Mexico, July 2009, for a national congress.