

Date: February 1, 2021

ITE MISSA EST



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

World Day for Consecrated Life !

**To monthly mission donors:
Thank you for your support!**

On behalf of His Excellency Robert J. Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus, and Very Rev. Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

World Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated on February 2nd, 2021! However, it will be observed in parishes the weekend of February 6-7. In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. Religious hold candles as Pope Francis celebrates a Mass marking the World Day for Consecrated Life in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 1, 2020, said: "Religious men and women and consecrated virgins also caught

sight of the treasure worth more than any worldly good and so, you left behind precious things such as possessions, such as making a family for yourselves. You fell in love with Jesus, you saw everything in him, and enraptured by his gaze, you left the rest behind".

I admire the life of St. Therese of Lisieux as she reflected upon her union with God: "To be your Spouse, and by my union with you to be the Mother of souls, Jesus I give you Love for Love". She is my faithful heavenly friend one who taught me how to surrender my life to God alone. She guided

me to love Jesus above all things, who deserves all my love. As I reflect on my life, how quickly 25 years have passed. Last September, I celebrated my 25th anniversary of religious life with Holy Mass at St. Peter Church, in Chillicothe, Ohio. I was so blessed to have the main celebrant His Excellency Most. Rev. Bishop Robert Brennan and I renewed my vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience.

In my religious life, I learned that a religious life can be the happiest life possible when I am able to give myself totally to God, loving trust with each

other, and joy with all. Every day I pray to Jesus that, "Jesus give me your love, peace, and joy. I value prayer in my life because prayer is the food of spiritual life. Prayer necessary as the air we breathe and as the blood in our bodies because prayer will nourish our soul with the grace of God. Consequently, prayer is an important element for a strong vocation. The virtue of holiness is very significant and it includes joy, love, compassion, and humility.

The full realization of the true happiness of the consecrated life is very real, a very precious thing, is undoubtedly part of the hundredfold which Christ has promised to those who leave all and follow Him. Each morning that I put on my holy habit is a new reception day for me; each



day a renewal of my vows after the mediation, or the Holy Mass and visiting and adoring Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament all these are the happiest moments of my life. It renews me and increases my happiness.

The Holy Eucharist is the greatest gift on earth that we can have which Christ himself giving His very own body and blood to us for nourishing our soul. My greatest and most valuable moment is when I receive Jesus into my heart, and he comes to me and gives me strength to live for Him and strengthen my vocation to follow Him daily.

I thank God for His special call and grace to lead a religious life and follow Him daily with a smile. Life is a gift of God, Who is the author of our life. I give my life to God by responding to His divine call; I am listening and following His footsteps daily with a joyful heart and prayerful mind.

Lenten Journey **2021...**

Lent starts on Wednesday February 17th and ends on Thursday, April 1st of the forty-day period before the feast of Easter. The Lenten journey begins with Ash Wednesday and it is a penitential period of time. As the cross of ashes is traced on our foreheads on Ash Wednesday, we may journey back again to God.

In the Gospel, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news" (Mk 1: 14-15). It is the time to pay more attention to

examining our lives, praying very often, practicing frequent fasting and doing works of charity. We are pilgrims on earth until we reach heaven. Let our Lenten observance make us Journey towards heaven. Let us open our mind and heart to hear the Word of God during this special penitential season through the prophet Joel:

Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning. Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God, For he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting in punishment Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind a blessing Grain offering and libation for the LORD, your God.

Blow the horn in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly! Gather the people, sanctify the congregation; Assemble the elderly; gather the children, even infants nursing at the breast; Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her bridal tent. between the porch and the altar let the priests weep, let the ministers of the LORD weep and say: "Spare your people, LORD! (Joel 2;12-17)

Quip:

The diamond cannot be polished without friction, nor man perfected without trials.

Quest:

There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below.

Pope Francis' February and March Prayer Intentions

February

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

March

Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

Quote:



"Beloved, do not be surprised that a trial by fire is occurring among you, as if something strange were happening to you. But rejoice to the extent that you share in the sufferings of Christ, so that when his glory is revealed you may also rejoice exultantly" (1 Peter 4:12,13).

***Sr. Zephрина Mary Gracykuty, FIH
Missions Office Director***

Gina Sergio, Program Coordinator

***Visit us on the web at
www.columbuscatholic.org***