



Women Religious Newsletter

Diocese of Camden, NJ

FALL 2016

Volume 7 Issue 1

Concerning the future of consecrated life.

Anyone living consecrated life at the present moment is surely aware of the challenges facing religious; challenges concerning membership, apostolates, and retirement. Within these concerns, the future of religious life itself hangs in the balance. On the NCVR's recent trip to Rome, Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, the Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Apostolic Life, assured those present that the charism of consecrated life is as ancient and as essential as that of the priesthood. The Cardinal emphasized that the prophetic gifts of religious given by the Holy Spirit for the whole church must be recognized and fostered. Without them, he noted, no local church, no parish is complete.

Pope Francis reminds us, "Religious men and women are prophets. They are those who have chosen a following of Jesus that imitates his life in obedience to the Father, poverty, community life and chastity. In this sense, the vows cannot end up being caricatures; otherwise, for example, community life becomes hell, and chastity becomes a way of life for unfruitful bachelors (*or in our case, old maids*). The vow of chastity must be a vow of fruitfulness. In the church, the religious are called to be prophets in particular by demonstrating how Jesus lived on this earth, and to proclaim how the kingdom of God will be in its perfection. A religious must never give up prophecy(in *Keep Watch!* p. 85.)

Vicars for Religious Meet

In October, the Eastern Region of the Vicars for Religious met at Wappingers Falls, NY for a three day conference. Among the interesting presentations, was one titled, "Assisting An Order In Decline," which outlined how the local Delegate for Religious accompanied a religious institute through the process of disbanding.

Following that, Sister Janet Mock, CSJ, who served as the executive director of the Religious Formation Conference and later of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious addressed the topics of "Reality, Grief, Hope: Three Urgent Prophetic Tasks" and "Standing in the Tragic Gap."

The Vicars who attended represented dioceses across the Eastern part of the US from Maine to Washington, DC. The gathering allows the members to share information and to address concerns that arise in the course of their ministries.

The next National Conference will take place in Chicago this coming March.

Formation Conference



Orientation to Formation

The Religious Formation Conference will offer this annual orientation to

formation workshop at Catholic Theological Union (CTU) in Chicago from December 9-11, 2016 on the topic Twenty-First Century Formation: Vision, Practical Helps, and Self-Care. Presenters are Helen Cahill, OP, a staff member at the Claret Center in Chicago, and Henry Beck, OFM, director of initial and priestly studies for friar-students at CTU.

Throughout this reflective weekend for new and seasoned formators, participants and presenters will explore the vision and context of formation today, practical helps for working with today's generation of women and men in formation, and formators' ongoing need for good self-care. Registration for this workshop is now open at www.relforcon.org. An advent webinar, Mindfulness: The Sacredness of the Present Moment, is scheduled for December 12 at 2:pm.

Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath

December 14-18

For the fourth year places of worship across the nation will be spending the tragic anniversary of the Newtown shooting remembering those who have been lost, praying for those who have survived, and raising awareness about what can be done to change the norm of gun violence in America. *Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence* will again be partnering with *Newtown Foundation and States United to Prevent Gun Violence* to sponsor the **National Gun Violence Prevention Sabbath**.

The kickoff event will be the national vigil for all victims of gun violence in Washington, DC on the evening of Thursday, December 14. Between Friday and Sunday, December 15-18, places of worship across the country will participate in a variety of ways. Ideas for prayer and worship are available at www.decembersabbath.org.

More than 33,000 people are killed by guns in the United States annually. Whether its mass shootings in Newtown and Orlando, or the daily single-victim

shootings on the streets of cities and towns, the nation is ravaged by death from guns. It affects all, regardless of race, age, income, religion, or place of residence. Death by guns is a frightening fact of life in the United States and it is a fact that can be changed by making voices of faith heard. Those of us who live and or work in the Diocese of Camden are well aware of the frightening number of lives taken every year by the violence in our streets.

In this year alone by June we had already mourned the loss of more than 20 people killed by gun violence.

As religious, let us join in the prayer for an end to this plague. Let us also get involved however we can in reaching out to those most in need.



Vocations



A comprehensive Vocation Directors Manual is now available through the NRVC website for members.

This digital resource contains hundreds of articles related to vocation ministry in the following topic areas: assessment and application process; candidate issues; inquirers and discerners; marketing vocations; religious life and vows; theology of call and vocation; trends, issues, and best practices; and vocation promotion.

The manual can be accessed at: nrvc.net/vocation_directors_manual.

The NRVC search committee is seeking applications from vowed religious for the position of executive director until December 16. The job description and application requirements are available at: nrvc.net/305/article/seeking-new-nrvc-executive-director-12404

Would it be possible to extend an invitation through your parish bulletin to invite some young women to dinner with you? Or perhaps, you might ask the local Youth Minister if you could speak at the next meeting of the Youth Group.

Retirement Fund

Speak Up for our Sisters

On the weekend of December 13-14, our parishes throughout the Diocese of Camden will be conducting the Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

Last year, the Diocese of Camden contributed \$208,777.83 to this collection. In 2014, the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy, Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus, Hospitaller Order of St. John of God and the Little Servant Sisters of the Immaculate Conception received financial support made possible by the Retirement Fund for Religious.



Sisters on the move . . .

The following sisters have moved on, some to retirement and others to minister elsewhere: Hospitaller Sisters of Mercy: Sr. Alexandrine Rosanirina, Sr. Ana Maria Kanjirakattu, Sr. Leena Joseph, Sr. Reena George, Sr. Maria Therese Rosoarivao, Sr. Febie Cadenas, Sr. Norma Nunez, Sr. Ana Maria Kanjirakattu; Sister of Mercy -Sr. Joan McKeon; Sisters of IHM: Sr. Patricia Scanlon, Sr. Barbara Bamberger, Sr. Mary Gough; Sisters of St. Francis of Alleghany: Sr. Mary Lou Lafferty and Sr. Maureen Chin Fatt, Sr. Helen Lodge, OSF and Sister of Christian Charity, Sr. Roberta Patterson and Sister Rita

Edward Karnell, SSJ.

The MDPVM sisters have moved from St. Peter's in Merchantville to Divine Mercy Convent in Vine-land. The IHM Sisters have moved from St. Joachim Parish in Bellmawr to Holy Child Parish in Runnemede. We welcome Sister Eileen Rush, SSJ to the Diocese. Sister will be teaching religion at Camden Catholic High School. Sister Nancy Kindelan, IHM is the new principal at St. Teresa Regional School in Runnemede. Sister Ann Barry, SSJ joins the community in Holy Saviour, Westmont.

As you will note, 25 sisters left the Diocese of Camden since May of 2016 and we welcomed four new sisters. Many of the transfers occurred unfortunately as a result of the need to sell the nursing facilities.



The Human Thread

The Human Thread Campaign has launched a post card effort that seeks commitments from Macy's and Kohl's department stores to pay a living wage and improve sustainable practices in their supply chains. The campaign organizers hope to persuade Macy's and Kohl's that consumers want choices in their clothing and that if a retailer will lead, consumers will buy. For years members of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility have engaged retailers, including Macy's and Kohl's, on supply chain issues. However, they have rejected calls to address wages at the sites where their clothing is made.

After the collapse of the Rana Plaza building in Bangladesh, Professor Jerry Davis of the Ross School of Business wrote a letter to *The New York Times*. In it he said that change never comes about from shareholder actions without an accompanying consumer effort.

Post cards can also be ordered in bulk from:

campaignmanager@humanthreadcampaign.org.

They can also be downloaded at tinyurl.com/horj6xu.

More about the issue and the campaign may be found at tinyurl.com

From the Vatican

In June of 2016, Pope Francis issued a new wide ranging set of guidelines for how the tens of thousands of Catholic women religious living in contemplative communities around the world should regulate their lifestyles, calling on them to implement changes in 12 diverse areas from prayer life to work habits.

Francis makes the changes in a new apostolic constitution titled *Vultum Dei Quaerere*. " Seek the Face of God.

Since the closing of the monastery here in Camden, we have no cloistered sisters in our diocese; however, let us pray for all those affected by this new challenge.

<http://anunslife.org>

Just in case, you haven't gone to this site yet, I encourage you to check it out. A Nun's Life has served the online community for 10 years.





DENNIS J. SULLIVAN, D.D.
BISHOP OF CAMDEN

Sister Mary J. McGarrity, IHM
Bishop's Delegate for Women
Religious
631 Market St.
Camden, NJ 08102
Phone: 856-583-2841

mary.mcgarritty@camdendiocese.org

WOMEN'S DISCERNMENT GROUP

Micarelli Center of Hospitality
1215 Kresson Rd. Cherry Hill, NJ

7-9 pm -first Monday of:

- October 3 Discernment
- November 7 Prayer
- December 5 Spiritual Direction
- January 2 The Call to Holiness
- February 6 Community Life
- March 6 The Vows
- April 3 Family



Sister Patricia Kelly, SSJ , a well-known and highly regarded inspirational speaker currently serves as the Director of Evangelization at Saint Andrew Church, Newtown, PA. Sister began her ministry as an elementary school teacher, moved on to secondary school and eventually to parish adult education.

In her Congregation, Sister served as a regional superior and in 1999 was elected Congregational President of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia. Her experiences include serving on the Boards of St. Mary Medical Center, Chestnut Hill College and the Federation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph.

ADVENT DAY OF REFLECTION

DECEMBER 3, 2016

St. Charles Borromeo Church

176 Stage Coach Rd.

Sicklerville, NJ 08031

9:00 - 2:00

Sister Patricia Kelly, SSJ

"Come Lord Jesus: In your light , we see light!"

SAVE THE DATE

**National Vocation Awareness
Week**

November 6-12, 2016

Advent Retreat

December 3, 2016

Sister Patricia Kelly, SSJ

**World Day for Consecrated
Life**

February 4, 2017

Knights of Columbus Dinner
February 25

Lenten Retreat

March 4, 2017

Marianne Heib, RSM
World Day of Prayer for

Vocations May 7

Irace4vocations

April 30, 2017



First Thursdays is a monthly Holy Hour for Vocations hosted by different parishes throughout the diocese. for young men thinking about the priesthood, It is a chance to spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament asking the Lord to make one's calling clear. For others, it is an opportunity to come together and beg the Lord to bless our diocese with more priests in the near future.

The Holy Hours occur from 7:00pm-8:00pm on the first Thursday of each month. If you cannot join us for these Holy Hours, you are invited to pray with us making use of the document First Thursdays Holy Hour for Vocations.