



Newsletter. . .

VATICAN CITY -- Pope Francis has called for a special year long focus on consecrated life, asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope. "Consecrated men and women are aware that besides recounting the great stories they have written in the past, they are called to write a no-less-beautiful and great story in the future," said Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life/

The congregation hopes Pope Francis will celebrate the year's opening Mass Nov. 21, when the church marks a day of prayer for cloistered religious. The events would conclude one year later on the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of the Second Vatican Council decree "Perfectae Caritatis" on the renewal of religious life.

"We are convinced that the council represented the breath of the Holy Spirit not only for the entire church, but in a particular way for consecrated life," Cardinal Aviz said.

"We are also convinced that in these 50 years, consecrated life has followed a fruitful path of renewal -- certainly not without difficulties and struggles," the cardinal said. "In this year, we want to recognize and confess our weaknesses, but we also want to show the world with strength and joy the holiness and vitality that are present in consecrated life." Source URL (retrieved on 04/08/2014 - 12:51): <http://ncronline.org/news/vatican/plans-revealed-year-religious-life> Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service/ Feb. 1, 2014

Plans are now underway to celebrate this year throughout the diocese in parishes, schools and universities and to raise appreciation of religious life.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VICARS FOR RELIGIOUS

Vicars for Religious from 60 dioceses across the United States and Hawaii met in Chicago from March 15-18. The theme, "Together In Mission," developed by Mary Hughes, OP and Archbishop Joseph Tobin, CSsR, centered around the relationship between religious superiors and their diocesan bishops. As a starting point, both speakers reviewed the document, "Mutual Relations" published in 1978. Pope Francis has mentioned the need for revision of this document and also of "Perfectae Caritatis." Rev. Hank Lemoncelli, from CICLSAL, once again joined the assembly to share some insights on relationships of Bishops and religious. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC updated the conference on studies being done on vocations.

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Up-Coming Events

- *Fall Gathering*
- *Opening of the Year for Consecrated Life*
- *National Vocation Awareness Week*
- *Advent Retreat*
- *World Day for Consecrated Life and Jubilee Celebrations*
- *Lenten Retreat*



On Board for 2014-

Ministerial Agreements for the year beginning either on July 1 or August 1 are mailed out in May of each year. All religious are responsible to have the documents signed and returned to the Delegate for Religious by August. The exact amount of this year's stipend is contained in the letter sent to each sister who was in active ministry last year and applies to all full time ministries.

Health care costs continue to rise and once again all who minister in the Diocese contribute a percentage.

Stipend Religious who work full

time in the Diocese of Camden receive a stipend for 35 hours a week. The stipend is reviewed each year and the Delegate for Women Religious informs the major superiors, the hiring agents and the individual religious of the amount.

Part-time stipends depend on the number of hours agreed to between the sister and the hiring agent (pastor or administrator).

The yearly stipend should be pro-rated based on the same amount. Compensation and benefits may be pro-rated for those religious who serve on a part-time basis. This may be

decided on a case by case basis.

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Compensation and benefits may be pro-rated for those religious who serve on a part-time basis.

The Diocese continues to provide dental coverage for those on part time.

Those over 65 who choose to go on **Medicare** are asked to contact their congregation's financial officer to determine the cost of the supplemental insurance which is then paid by the Diocese.

Vocation efforts

A recent communique from the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations informed us of the efforts beginning in 2014 to bring greater visibility to the life and ministry of women religious. To support this new thrust, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation recently awarded a grant to St. Catherine University in Minnesota to highlight the lives and work of Catholic Sisters. As a result, the week of March 8-14 was dedicated to raising this awareness on the university level. Sister Mary Soher, OP spearheaded the efforts. Looking back on the experience, Sister remarked, "Among the sisters there was a claiming of sister-hood. There is this sense that we are all sisters working in the mission of Christ." During the opening prayer sister said, "We were raising our voices in song and as the prayer filled the building, I was thinking, 'This is it.'" Moving forward, students are encouraged to create oral histories of women religious and share their finished videos on www.SisterStory.org a digital hub for National Catholic Sisters Week.



National Religious Retirement Office . . .



In a letter dated March 26, 2014 addressed to Bishop Sullivan, Sister Janice Bader, CPPS, Executive Director of NRRO thanked the parishioners of the Diocese of Camden for their generous contributions to the annual appeal. This year the Diocesan check for \$208,77.83 sent in response amounted to an increase of \$79,000.00 over last year!

Sister Bader wrote, "Words cannot express our gratitude for their generous and prayerful support of our nations' senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests." In a hand-written note, Sister commented further writing, "A marvelous increase of nearly \$79,000. over last year. Thank you for all you did to help make this possible."



Congratulations to Bishop Joseph A. Galante on the 50th anniversary of His ordination.

Jubilee Mass for priests will be held at 4:00 pm on Tuesday, May 6 at St. Gianna Beretta Molla Parish

25 Years: Reverend Hugh J. Bradley, Reverend Edward M. Friel, Reverend Patrick B. McStravog, OSA

40 Years: Reverend Massimo S. Fasciglione, Reverend Monsignor William A. Hodge, Reverend Donald F. Reilly, OSA, Reverend Paul C. Wise

50 years: Reverend Patrick J. Brady, Reverend A. Robert Cairone, Reverend Francis P. Gaffney, Most Reverend Joseph A. Galante, Reverend Francis J. Gramigna, Reverend Overton J. Jones, Reverend Jerome C. Romanowski, Reverend Monsignor Leonard G. Scott.

As women religious ministering in the Diocese of Camden, it is our privilege to stand alongside these dedicated servants of the Gospel. Let us continue to pledge our prayerful support and our heartfelt gratitude for their faithfulness. CONGRATULATIONS!

SISTERS OF MERCY OF THE AMERICAS Mid-Atlantic Region



Mother Catherine McAuley, an Irish Catholic lay woman.

“Centered in God, for whom alone we go forward or stay back.”—Catherine McAuley We, Sisters of Mercy are an international community of Roman Catholic women who dedicate our lives to the Gospel of Jesus and take vows of poverty, chastity, obedience and service. Inspired by the life of Jesus and by our founder Catherine McAuley, we envision a just world for people who are poor, sick and uneducated. We commit our lives to God and our resources to serve, advocate and pray for those in need around the world. In addition to the three vows (poverty, chastity and obedience) all Catholic sisters take, as Sisters of Mercy, we also take a fourth vow of service. Our web-site is www.mercymidatlantic.org

Mid-Atlantic Region: More than 900 sisters serve in twenty states and two countries. Our Administrative center is in Merion, Pennsylvania. Sixteen Sisters of Mercy live and serve in the Camden Diocese in various ministries.

NRRO WEBINAR: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 1:00-2:00

Intimacy, Loneliness and Solitude

Presented by Sean D. Sammon, FMS, a Marist Brother, Scholar in Residence at Marist College, Poughkeepsie, NY. this webinar will focus on the relationship between intimacy, loneliness and solitude. Set within the context of the life-cycle, it will define intimacy and chart its journey through early adulthood as well as the middle and final years of life. Next, self intimacy and loneliness at midlife and during late adulthood will be examined and a distinction made between loneliness and solitude. Finally, life transitions will be discussed with an eye towards seeing them as fertile ground for dealing with loneliness and helping us to be more at home with ourselves. Registering can be made to Erin Pietrak at (518) 537-5000





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Heavenly Father, bless our diocese with the grace of many vocations to the priesthood and consecrated religious life. Through the intercession of the Blessed Mother, grant to those you have called the willingness and generosity of spirit to give of themselves in devoting their lives and their talents to the service of our Lord and to his Church. Increase the faith of all, and particularly the faith of those you have called and will continue to call. We ask this through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



Send me new pictures!

Plans for YCL 2015 . . .

During the spring of 2015, a committee was formed to begin preparations for the celebration of the YEAR FOR CONSECRATED LIFE. The members include Sisters Esther Anuta, SOM; Marie Olwell, SSJ; Patricia Scanlon, IHM; Catherine Pociecha, LSIC; Maria Metzger, SSJ; Dianna Higgins, FMIJ; Sister Dorothy Aloisio, FMIHM; Brother Thomas Osorio, OH; Rev. Matthew Weber and Sister Mary J. McGarrity, IHM.

Topics discussed during the meetings included how to celebrate and raise awareness of the events such as the opening of the year on November 21, 2014, the World Day of Consecrated Life, February 7-8, 2015, National Catholic Sisters Week, March 2015. The committee will entertain any suggestions concerning other events and/or projects that can be initiated.

The Vatican Commission for Consecrated Life CIC/SAL will be developing the logo such as the one used for the Year of Faith. Materials such as prayer cards and posters for use in the parishes will also be produced and distributed throughout the diocese. Brother Mickey McGrath, OSFS will assist with the creation of these materials.

All religious are invited to participate by volunteering to tell their vocations stories using all forms of social media. Check out www.globalsistersreport.org and www.anunslife.org. **Take pictures of sisters/brothers/religious priests in action as they do ministry, play and pray. Send them to mary.mcgarrrity@camdendiocese.org**