



Bishop Joseph A. Galante's Farewell

Dear Bishop,

Thank you for being with us today as we celebrate the World Day for Consecrated Life. Although word of your impending retirement had been circulating for some time, we were all saddened by the public announcement.

Your presence has graced us. We will miss you and we religious women realize what a gift you are in your unfailing respect, love and support.

We admire your courage and patience in illness and treasure

your counsel and wisdom. The beauty of being who we are in the Body of Christ is that we will continue to accompany you in prayer and pray with you especially as we celebrate the Eucharist.

We remember the words that once were spoken and were more recently sung in the last scene of *Les Miserable*, "...to love another person is to see the face of God." And so, with the affection of Christ Jesus, we love you because in you we see the face of God.

May these days of retirement be peaceful and joyful. Thank you for loving us,

The Women Religious of the Diocese of Camden
February 2, 2013



WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

In 1997, John Paul II called for consecrated life to be promoted throughout the universal Church.

He declared February 2, the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, to be observed as World Day for Consecrated Life. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life invites all the Church to reflect on the role of Consecrated Life within the Christian community. Those who choose to live a consecrated life do so for the sake of the gospel. Each year WDCL reminds us of the value the Church places on the vowed life. (Cont'd p. 2)

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Welcome to

Sisters Maureen Avril Chin Fat, OSF and Maureen Lafferty, OSF who will take up residence at St. Clare Convent in Mt Ephraim.

The Sisters of Mary Immaculate from Kenya are residing now at Sacred Heart Convent in Vineland and

working at

Bishop McCarthy Residence.



On February 16, the Religious of the Diocese of Camden met at Pius X th spiritual Life Center for a day of prayerful reflection led by Sister Mary Hughes, OP.

The Wedding at Cana, Jn2:1-11 served as the source for Sister's morning

presentation. Jesus was not ready when his mother presented the need for more wine. Yet, he responded and the result was the first miracle. Religious in observing the vow of obedience often reluctantly agree to an assignment only to discover in doing so, the abilities that God has placed within them. Our life in community has drawn out the talents needed for ministry and we have responded. Now, as religious age, Sister reminded her listeners, Jesus saved the best wine for last.

The day included time for personal reflection as well as the

opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation. Msgr. Thomas Morgan celebrated the Eucharist and shared his deeply mystical thoughts on our theme, "The Journey of Discipleship."

After a delicious lunch, Mary continued her reflections on Jesus' prayer in the desert and encouraged the participants to follow his example: pray before big decisions as he did; pray not only in community, but also, "in secret" and remember the beauty of the rosary which so often is the prayer said at the deathbed. Finally, Sister's advice was to "let go, trust God and believe that you are loved."

JUBILARIANS 2013

"Here I am, send me."

DIAMOND—60 YEARS △

Sister Antoniette DeNardo, MPF
Sister Rosemary Powers, RSM
Sister Mary Anna Nowicka, LSIC
Sister MGemma Procopio, FMIHM

GOLDEN—50 YEARS ■

Sister Barbara Bamberger, IHM
Sister Rosemarie Lafferty, SSJ
Sister M. Francine Dacy, DM
Sister M. Bernarda Ribeiro, FMIHM

SILVER—25 YEARS

Sister Dianelyn Malacad, HSM
Sister Jadwiga Chlus, LSIC
Sister Rosa Maria Ojeda, MDPVM

VOCATIONS—CARA REPORT

Mark M. Gray, Ph.D. and Mary L. Gautier, Ph. D.'s recently released report reveals some interesting information concerning young, never married Catholics in the U.S. In winter 2012, the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University to conduct a national poll of never-married Catholics regarding their consideration of a vocation. The survey was completed by 1,428 respondents, resulting in a margin of sampling error of ± 2.6 percentage points.

This study identifies subgroups in the never-married Catholic population—including teens and adults—and compares those who have considered a vocation at least "a little seriously" to those who say they have not considered this or who say they did so, but not seriously. Two percent of women indicate they have "very seriously considered becoming a religious sister. This is equivalent to 250,000 women. Shepherding these people would require a combination of greater outreach, encouragement, assistance in obtaining educational prerequisites, an dealing with other issues such as student loan debt and citizenship status.

CARA, Winter, 2012

Welcome Bishop Dennis



In his first appearance in Camden, Bishop Dennis Sullivan said he would lead the diocese as a pastor, pledged that the church will never abandon Camden, and offered a greeting to Hispanics in fluent Spanish.

Bishop Sullivan was introduced as the eighth bishop of Camden at a press conference in the Camden Diocesan Center on Jan. 8. Those in attendance — chancery officials, diocesan employees and even

the journalists — welcomed Bishop Sullivan and expressed their gratitude to Bishop Joseph Galante, who has won their respect and affection during a period of significant change for the church in South Jersey. On February 11, the first of a series of official liturgies took place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with solemn vespers followed by a reception. The next day the Mass of Installation was celebrated at St. Agnes Church in Blackwood followed that evening with dinner at the Crown Plaza in Cherry Hill. Due to limited seating, admission was by ticket only. The ceremony was broadcast live on EWTN. Women religious welcome our new Bishop and promise our support.

SISTERS OF ST. FRANCIS OF PHILADELPHIA. . .

Our community was founded in Philadelphia under the direction of Bishop John Neumann who instructed the original group, under the leadership of Mother Mary Frances Bachmann, the foundress, on Easter Monday, April 9, 1855, the saintly Bishop invested the three founding members in the habit of St. Francis.

About us . . .

We are a congregation of approximately 500 Catholic women religious who

- choose a Gospel way of life lived in community
- are dedicated to serving others, especially those who are economically poor, marginal, and oppressed
- minister in the United States in approximately 24 states as well as Europe and Africa
- serve in a variety of ministries



Sister Paula Marie Randow, OSF, principal of Our Lady of Hope Regional School, prays attentively with the children, the teachers and her pastor, Rev. Mark Cavagnaro.

We follow the values of the Third Order Regular Franciscans.

Look for us on line at <http://www.osfphila.org/about>



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We're on the web!
www.camdendiocese.org

Click on "About Us."

Go to Clergy and Religious

Click on Women Religious

"The experience of impasse can be a source of creative growth and transformation if fully appropriated within one's heart and flesh with consciousness and consent; if the limitations of one's humanity and human condition are squarely faced and the sorrow of finitude allowed to invade the human spirit with real existential powerlessness; if the ego does not demand understanding in the name of control and predictability but is willing to admit the mystery of its own being and surrender itself to this mystery; if the path into the unknown, into the uncontrolled and unpredictable margins of life, is freely taken when the path of deadly clarity fades." Constance Fitzgerald, OCD

Benedict XVI on Consecrated Life

Vatican City: February 2, 2013

Dear consecrated brothers and sisters, you are all represented in that symbolic pilgrimage, which in the Year of Faith expresses all the more your own entry into the Church to be confirmed in faith and renewed in the offering of yourselves to God....

I invite you first to nourish a faith that will be able to enlighten your vocation. I exhort you in this regard to recall to your mind, as in an interior pilgrimage, the "first love" with which the Lord Jesus Christ warmed your heart, not out of nostalgia but to nourish that flame. This is why it is necessary to be with him, in the silence of adoration, and in this way reawaken the will and the joy of sharing life, decisions, the obedience of faith, the blessedness of the poor, the radicality of love. Always beginning again from this meeting of love, you leave everything to be with him and, like him, place yourselves in the service of God and the brethren (cf. John Paul II, "Vita consecrata," 1).

Second, I invite you to a faith that knows how to recognize the wisdom of weakness. In the joys and sufferings of the present time, when the difficulty and weight of the cross make themselves felt, do not doubt that the kenosis of Christ is already the paschal victory. Precisely in human limits and weakness we are called to live conformation to Christ, in a totalizing tension that anticipates, in the measure possible in time, eschatological perfection (ibid., 16). In the society of effectiveness and success, your life, marked by the humility and weakness of little ones, by empathy with those who do not have a voice, becomes an evangelical sign of contradiction.

Finally, I invite you to renew the faith that leads you as pilgrims toward the future. By its nature the consecrated life is a pilgrimage of the spirit in search of the Face that shows itself and hides itself: "Faciem tuam, Domine, requiram" (Psalm 26:8) (We seek your face, O Lord). This is the constant longing of your heart, the fundamental criterion that orients your journey, whether in the small steps of daily life or in the most important decisions. Do not join with the prophets of misadventure who proclaim the end of or the meaninglessness of the consecrated life of the Church in our time; rather, put on Jesus Christ and arm yourselves with the weapons of light, as St. Paul says (cf. Romans 13:11-14) - remaining awake and vigilant. St. Chromatius of Aquileia wrote: "May the Lord remove such danger from us that we are never lulled into the sleep of infidelity; but may he grant his grace and his mercy so that we can always be vigilant in fidelity to him" (Sermon 32,4). . . I pray that your life always have the flavor of evangelical boldness that in you the Good New is lived, witnessed to, announced and manifested as Word of truth (cf. "Porta fidei," 6).