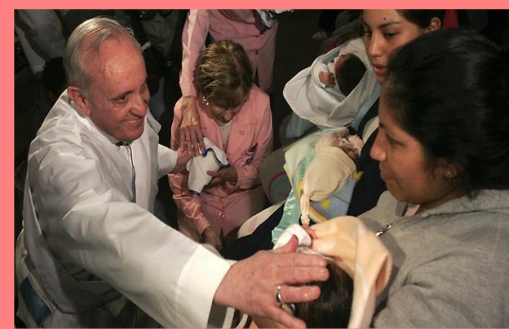


Newsletter. . .



In his recent audience with 800 superiors of women's communities from around the world, Pope Francis asked, "What would the Church be without you? It would be missing maternity, affection, tenderness and a mother's intuition."

Sister Mary Lou Wirtz, FCJM, said that the sisters "are very pleased with the Pope, and it gives them hope of maybe some changes happening in the Church."

Sister continued to say that women religious appreciate the Pope's emphasis on serving the poor and going out to the margins of society, "because that's what our service as religious women is about."

In his talk, Pope Francis said that the vow of chastity expands the ability to give oneself to God and others with tenderness, mercy and closeness to Christ."

Embracing poverty, he said, means overcoming all temptations of selfishness and instead relying totally on God's providence. It is expressed in simplicity and learned from living with "the humble, the poor, the sick and all those on the existential margins of life."

"Theoretical poverty is of no use to us...We must never forget that true power, at any level is service, which reached its highest point on the Cross."

Wooden, Cindy. Pope-tells-sisters-
...,www.catholicherald.co.uk/news.5/23/2013

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF VICARS FOR RELIGIOUS

"Faith, the Cornerstone of the Vowed Life" was the theme of the meeting of vicars held in Chicago from March 17-20. Father James Sullivan, OP, Sisters Maria Cimperman, RSCJ and Margaret Guider, OSF provided words of wisdom for our reflection and discussion. Sister Sharon Holland, IHM spoke on the spiritual aspects of Canon Law and answered questions.

Rev. Hank Lemoncelli, from CICLSAL, joined us once again to share some insights on relationships of Bishops and religious. Brother Paul Bednarczyk brought us up-to-date on studies being done on vocations.

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SAVE THE DATE:

- June 30 Bishop Galante's Birthday and Farewell Party—2:30 Incarnation, Mantua
- Stone Harbor Fall Gathering
- Bishop Sullivan Meets with the Religious
- Brother Mickey's Autumn Retreat

On Board for 2013-2014

Ministerial Agreements for the year beginning either on July 1 or August 1 have been mailed out. All religious are responsible to have the documents signed and returned to the Delegate for Religious by August. The Diocese of Camden increased the stipend by 2%. The exact amount is contained in the accompanying letter 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 by April 15.

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.

Personnel Policy for Religious p.3

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.

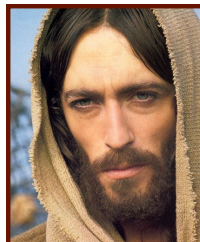
VOCATION PROMOTION EFFORTS

Within the Camden diocese, 25 religious communities serve the People of God. Each one strives to live out its charism and looks towards the future with the hope that the works begun so enthusiastically in the past will continue into the future. Yet, for the past several years, very few, if any, women from South Jersey have entered religious life. The time has come to unite our

efforts to identify and encourage women called by God to enjoy the life we cherish. Some factors that might help:

- * Be visible and identifiable as vowed religious.
- * Ask to post your web-site in the parish, hospital, or agency bulletin
- * Identify sisters willing to visit the schools and universities

- * Speak at parish/public functions
- * Smile and share your joy
- * Encourage women to seek spiritual direction.
- * Invite young women to come and see.



IMMIGRATION REFORM



On May 30, the NUNS ON THE BUS arrived at St. Joseph Pro-Cathedral.

Sisters, priests and parishioners applauded as Sister Simone Campbell, SSS and six others stepped into the yard. After greeting the school children, the group moved into the Church where we were welcomed by Veronica Roche, SSJ. The program began with the singing of the hymn, "Donde Esta?" followed by Sister Campbell's talk on the urgency of action needed on the issue of immigration. Sister touched on the following:

Support common sense reform which ensure family unity; protects the rights of immigrant workers; speeds up the processing of already approved immigrants; acknowledges our borders need to be secure; enhances the present diversity visa program and provides a clear, direct path to citizenship.

The banner on the bus reads: Text NUNS to 877 877 to raise your voice in support.

CONGRATULATIONS

LCWR 2013 Florida August 13— 17, 2013

*Franciscan Sisters of
the Immaculate Heart*

As you celebrate

50 years

Of dedicated service

In the U.S.A.

*May you continue for
many more years*

Praising God.

Participants in the 2013 LCWR assembly— **Leadership Evolving: Graced, Grounded & Free**— will explore how the growing awareness of an evolving universe impacts understanding of religious life and leadership. Franciscan Sister Ilia Delio will address the topic: “Religious Life on the Edge of the Universe.” The assembly will also include a presentation by and opportunity to interact with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain, as well as several executive sessions to discuss the CDF mandate to LCWR.



Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia is the President-Elect of LCWR. In her reflection, published in the LCWR Update, June 2013, Carol wrote, “When we discern whether the next step in a personal, congregational, or organizational journey is of God and for God, we can be confident of its prompting and purpose when it reflects the Spirit’s gifts and bear the Spirit’s fruits. . . May we lean together into God’s abundant love.”

Hospitaler Sisters of Mercy . . .



The Hospitaler Sisters of Mercy is an institute of pontifical right founded in Rome on May 16, 1821 by princess Teresa Orsini Doria Pamphili. The spirit of the congregation is: **To assist Jesus’ suffering in his members.** We take a special vow of serving in hospitals and other socio-medical activities. Our sister are professionally prepared with training in the medical field. Some are doctors, some administrators, and in general, nurses or social workers.

We came to the United States in 1966 invited by Bishop Celestina J. Damiano of Camden, New Jersey. We staff and administer two nursing homes operated by the Diocese of Camden— Our Lady’s multi-care center in Pleasantville, and Bishop McCarthy in Vineland. Villa Raffaella is the first facility to be owned and operated by our order. Because our order draws its members from the many countries we serve, each of our houses sounds like a small United Nations, only with much more love. We enjoy the different cultures and gifts which we all bring to the same mission: pouring the oil of consolation and the wine of hope unto suffering humanity.

National Retirement for Religious Organization

The National Religious Retirement Office is planning a workshop for those whose community’s retirement is more than 40% underfunded. All expenses: food, housing and travel expenses will be paid for those planning to attend the event. In addition to these items funds are available to assist in both the plan-

ning and implementing phases. More information is available by downloading the online brochure and application at www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/planning-and-implementation-assistance.cfm or by calling the 202-541-3215.





DELEGATE FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS

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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.

HOW HAVE WE DONE?



Beginning in November 2012, the universal Church following the urgings of Benedict XVI has been observing the Year of Faith. Religious heard the urgent message, "I invite you first to nourish a faith that will enlighten your vocation." The Pope called for a return to the "first love, to silent adoration which he promised will awaken the ...obedience of faith, the blessedness of the poor, and the radicality of love."

Secondly, Benedict invited Religious to a faith that "knows how to recognize the wisdom of weakness." He called for a life "marked by humility and the weakness of little ones, by empathy with those who do not have a voice," so as to be an evangelical sign of contradiction.

Finally, his most emphatic remarks invited us "to renew the faith that leads you as pilgrims into the future. He then prayed in the words of St. Chromatius of Aquila, "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(Sermon32,4").

The words of Benedict, Pope Emeritus still ring strong and true in his prayer for each one of us, he wrote,

I pray that your life always have the flavor of evangelical boldness that in you the Good News is lived, witnessed to, announced and manifested as Word of truth ("Porta Fidei," 6).