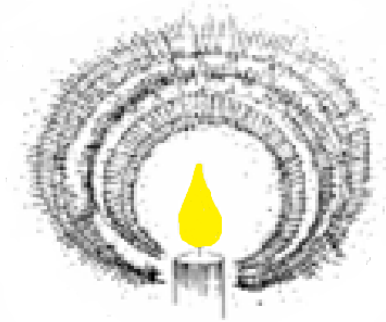


World Day for Consecrated Life



February 02, 2012

ENVIRONMENT:

Flowers, candles, Scripture, Constitutions

MUSIC SUGGESTIONS:

City of God (Schutte),	Only This I Want (Schutte),
You are Mine (Haas),	Bring Forth the Kingdom (Marty Haugen)

CALL TO PRAYER:

In 1997, John Paul II called for consecrated life to be promoted throughout the universal church. He declared February 02, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, to be observed as World Day for Consecrated Life. February 02 is also known as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is light of the world. So, too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all people

LET US PRAY:

Jesus, your total trust in the Father in your suffering, death and resurrection is a beacon for us. Turn our minds and hearts to the wellsprings of living water, your Spirit within us, and let our actions bear witness to your Presence so that together with you we, too, may be instruments of Peace. Help us to be faith filled witnesses of your love. Amen.

READING FROM YOUR CONSTITUTIONS OR VITA CONSECRATA:

“The quest for divine beauty impels consecrated persons to care for the deformed image of God on the faces of their brothers and sisters, faces disfigured by hunger, faces disillusioned by political promises, faces humiliated by seeing their culture despised, faces frightened by constant and indiscriminate violence, the anguished faces of minors, the hurt and humiliated faces of women, the tired faces of migrants who are not given a warm welcome, the faces of the elderly who are without even the minimum conditions for a dignified life.” [VITA CONSECRATA #75]

PSALM 27 (excerpts)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord,
to inquire at his temple.
--- and within his tent
I will sing and make music for the Lord.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.
Of you my heart has spoken,
“Seek his face.”

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

Do not abandon or forsake me,
O God, my Savior!
I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong;
be strong-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

SCRIPTURE: Acts 4:32-35.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

The word of the Lord.

R: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Revisit the moment of your First Profession.
What is the grace of that moment that you carry today?
- Remember a person who epitomizes all that is best about being a member of a religious congregation. Give thanks to God for her/his presence in your life.
- Today, how is God whispering to you?
What is one new action God is inviting you to undertake in His name?

SHARING:

RECOMMITTING OURSELVES:

Leader: Jesus calls each one of us to “Let our light shine!”
With confidence we seek God’s grace.

Response: Give light to your people, O Lord.

For WISDOM.

May church and world leaders welcome the action of the Holy Spirit, we pray: **R**

For JUSTICE.

May we work together to feed the hungry, accompany immigrants and refugees
and with others work on issues that require systemic change, we pray: **R**

For FIDELITY.

May all women and men in consecrated life be faith-filled witnesses of God’s
compassionate love and may their witness draw others to consecrated life, we pray: **R**

For GRATITUDE.

May we see the goodness of God in ourselves, others and in our world
and daily give God thanks and praise, we pray: **R**

For PEACE.

May those who have died be welcomed into your presence.
May their spirit, through us, help bring peace to our world, we pray: **R**

For COURAGE.

May each of us let our light shine as we serve God
in ministry to those most vulnerable, we pray: **R**

Leader: Gracious God, let your light shine upon us and lead us to greater wisdom.
Bless us through your son Jesus in communion with the Holy Spirit. Amen



OUR FATHER

CLOSING PRAYER:

We give thanks to you, Creator God, for having called us to follow you.
By our baptism and religious profession, may we be continuously renewed
and transformed into your likeness so that together with those we accompany
we may recognize and accept one another as neighbour. Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Leader: Let us pray:

R. Radiant God, we offer you our praise and thanks
for creating us and all of creation out of love.

L. You sent your Son, Jesus, as the Light of the World
to shine forth your goodness. You call us, like Jesus,
to let our light shine by sharing our bread with the hungry,
accompanying immigrants and refugees and with others
working on issues that require systematic change.

R. Consecrate us in prayer, community and ministry
so that others may come to know and love you.

L. Continue to bless our Church and world with women and men
who dedicate their lives to you through consecrated life.

ALL: BE A LAMP TO LIGHT OUR WAY NOW AND ALWAYS. AMEN.



(Resources: Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, USCCB, LCWR, www.vatican.va, Becoming Neighbours)