

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* (*WDCL*). In the United States, when February 2 is not on a Sunday, we celebrate on the Sunday after the Presentation. This year *WDCL* is observed on February 7, 2016 the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

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.

Some Christian women and men respond to God's call to become followers of Jesus through profession of vows and a life dedicated to prayer and service. They live out the consecrated life in different ways. Religious sisters, nuns, brothers, religious priests, and monks consecrate their lives through their profession of the evangelical vows and live as part of a community. Single lay people may choose to be consecrated virgins and make private vows to the local bishop as they live out their vocation in various walks of life. Secular institutes are another form of living the consecrated life as single people. Those who become followers of Jesus through the consecrated life bless the Church.

*The USA Council of Serra International* offers this resource to assist you in your local celebration of *World Day for Consecrated Life*. We hope this kit provide you with ideas to create a meaningful celebration in your parish, diocese, religious community or other church institution.



## WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016

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### YEAR C

#### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

- Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
- Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11
- Luke 5:1-11

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# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016



## LITURGY PLANNING GUIDE Year C

### Introductory Rites

#### *Processional Hymn*

- Gathered As One*, Paul Tate & Deanna Light, WLP
- If We Are Living/Pues Si Vivimos*, Deborah Schmitz, Traditional Latin-American, Abingdon Press, WLP, GIA
- Lord, When You Come to the Seashore/Pescador de Hombres*, Cesáreo Gabaráin. OCP, GIA, WLP
- Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God Almighty*, Tune: NICAEA, Text: Reginald Heber, WLP, GIA

#### *Penitential Rite*

A sprinkling rite is suggested.

#### *Sprinkling Rite*

- Waters of Life*, Laura Kutscher, WLP
- You Have Put on Christ*, Howard Hughes, ICEL, GIA
- Agua de Vida/Water of Life*, Jaime Cortez, OCP

#### *Opening Prayer*

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### Liturgy of the Word

#### *First Reading*

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8

#### *Psalm Response*

Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8

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#### *Second Reading*

1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11

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#### *Gospel Acclamation*

Luke 5:1-11

*Homily*

See *Homily Notes*

#### *General Intercessions*

See *General Intercessions*

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

## **Concluding Rites**

*Prayer after Communion* \_\_\_\_\_

*Blessing and Dismissal* \_\_\_\_\_

*Recessional Hymn*      \_\_\_\_\_ *Go Make of All Disciples*, ELLACOMBE, WLP, GIA  
                        \_\_\_\_\_ *We Are Your People*, Herman Stuempfle, Jr.,  
                                  SINE NOMINE, WLP  
                        \_\_\_\_\_ *On A Mission*, Julie Lafontaine & Bernie Cossentino, OCP  
                        \_\_\_\_\_ *The Summons*, John Bell, Iona Community, GIA, WLP, OCP

# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016



## HOMILY NOTES

### Year C

For those of you old enough, can you finish the following commercial jingles and name the company? “My bologna has a first name...;” “Plop, Plop, fizz, fizz...;” “I’d like to teach the world to sing in perfect harmony...;” These catchy jingles stand the test of time because they touch something pressed upon our psyche. Once heard again, we cannot get the tunes out of our heads—especially during the rest of this homily and Mass! Give them credit; the jingle song writers have caught us forever in their whimsical trap.

Not unlike these writers, we Catholics have some good inspirational song writers with their catchy tunes. One such song is “Here, I am Lord” whose refrain is: *Here I am Lord, is it I Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart* [Was this hymn sung today?].

Are these lyrics just as appealing as the commercial jingles? Are they so pressed upon our minds that we could burn them onto our I-Pods? Have these words got us caught forever in a whimsical trap of God’s call? Or, have we discarded them because we believe that the words apply only to those called to seek a vocation in the consecrated life? Maybe we believe only those who are worthy and holy, such as Isaiah, Paul, Peter or women in scripture, can be called to such a noble task.

Well, guess what? These scripture figures, as well as saints, and those men and women called to live the consecrated life are not the only one’s called. Isaiah, Paul and Peter are proof of that. They were ordinary people like us with shortcomings and sins. They felt unworthy to serve. However, like the people in the synagogue listening to Jesus in today’s Gospel, God’s prophetic call compelled them to change and follow Christ.

This conversion came to these men when they recognized the glory and presence of God in their lives. [Where do we see God's glory and presence in our lives?] Having seen these manifestations, their minds were opened and their hearts transformed. Their unworthiness became humility. Each could confidently say: send me. I will preach. I will follow. They now had gained sufficient trust in and total dependency on God who would supply them with the necessary graces to overcome any deficiencies in their lives. This is why Paul could say in today's reading: "Therefore, whether it be I or they, so we preach and so you believed."

God always takes us as we are and where we are! God's lyrics of the call have been pressing upon our minds since our existence. It should be a familiar tune that calls all of us to a vocation to serve God as a person of any age, physicality or state of life.

Consequently, we're all worthy to serve! All of us can attain holiness! We must toss away from our minds the bad jingle tunes of being undeserving and not holy. When we remove such thinking from our mind, we are opening ourselves to God's will. We recognize the innate fact of our universal call to holiness, which has been proclaimed in scripture (e.g. Lev 19:2; Mt. 5: 48), and more recently in the Vatican II document, ***Lumen Gentium***.

St. Francis de Sales thought the average person was confused about the meaning of holiness. He was persistently reminding people that the call to holiness emerges out of our human nature, a nature created in the image of God. As one strives to be holy, one needs to be patient with one's imperfections and faults. That holiness is derived from the ordinary Christian ways we act in life and not in extraordinary deeds performed. Similarly, St. Jane de Chantal, said that "one cannot always offer God great things, but one can offer God small things with great love." Simply, holiness is attained by the way we love God and neighbor.

And so, as we think about the many ways in which we are called to love in ordinary ways and do it extraordinarily well, let us not forget those women and men who have responded to God's call to serve as a consecrated religious. This day and Mass is dedicated to them throughout the world. On this *World Day for Consecrated Life*, may the lives of consecrated women and men be blessed with God's overwhelming grace of love! May their lives inspire us to hear God's vocational call. May this tune be forever in our minds and transform our hearts to say boldly: "Here I am, Lord, send me!"



# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016



## GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

**Presider:** Jesus calls each of us to follow and encourages us not to be afraid. With confidence in God's grace we seek God's help.

For our world, may all leaders and organizations work together for greater justice. May these efforts lead to lasting peace, we pray.

For our Church, may we realize that God calls all of us to holiness. May we allow God to transform our unworthiness into goodness, we pray.

For those who are called to the consecrated life, may they be faithful witnesses of God's love. May others be inspired to live their baptismal commitment by professing the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, we pray.

For our families and for this Christian community, may we respond to the needs of those close to us. May gratitude and generosity abound, we pray.

For those who have died (*especially . . .*), may they sing God's praises with the angels. May their spirit abide with us, we pray.

**Presider:** Loving God, we trust in your love and compassion for your people. Hear our prayers and grace us with your blessings. We seek to do your will through the power of your Spirit, now and always. Amen.

# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016



## SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

### **Diocese, Parishes, Schools, Serra Clubs:**

- Invite members of institutes of consecrated life from your parish to serve as ministers for the Sunday liturgy.
- Invite members of institutes of consecrated life to speak to adults/children in religious education programs.
- Host a prayer service and reception (See *Prayer Service*).
- Offer a day of perpetual adoration dedicated to vocations to consecrated life.
- Encourage open houses throughout the diocese.
- Sponsor a vocation fair, walkathon, or rally highlighting institutes of consecrated life.
- Provide copies of vocation magazines, brochures, and flyers.
- Encourage vocation awareness through diaconate, lay ministry, parents' baptism programs, family ministries.
- Have a vocation section in parish bulletin, bulletin board, newsletters. Highlight stories of people who live the consecrated life, especially those who serve in the local parish or who entered from the parish.
- Work with local communicators to develop media coverage with stories, television & radio public service announcements about the consecrated life, inspirational e-movies.

### **Institutes of Consecrated Life:**

- Invite friends, employees, benefactors, and families to join you for prayer, talk, a meal, or an open house. Share about your life and charism.
- Plan a simple prayer in which you share your vocation stories together. Renew your vows. Invite interested people to join you.
- Do a press release or share a story about your institute with the local press.
- Open your doors to college students for a place to study and pray.
- Sponsor a “holy hour” to pray for vocations.
- Host a “Come & See” experience or “Nun Run”.
- Sponsor a summer camp and invite young people to participate and learn about your congregation.
- Create a congregation vocation website that is interactive: chat room, blog, podcast, invitation to conference call with other discerners.

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2016 USA Council of Serra International

## Musical Suggestions

*Take, O Take Me As I Am*, John Bell, Iona Community, GIA  
*Here I Am, O God*, Steven Warner, WLP  
*Speak Now, O Lord*, Joe Mattingly, WLP  
*Who Calls You by Name*, David Haas, GIA  
*Where Charity and Love Prevail*, Paul Benoit, OSB, OCP  
*Where There is Love*, David Hass, OCP

## Psalmody Suggestions

*Sung (with cantor) or spoken, or a combination (sing refrain, speak the verses)* Psalms 71, 27, 34, 40

## Reading Selections

- Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19 (Sunday)
- Luke 4: 21-30 (Presentation)
- John 17:17-23 (Consecration)

## Reflection

Invite someone who lives the consecrated life to give testimony; or ask a variety of people to speak on the meaning of the consecrated life for the life of the Church.

## Response

Renewal of vows; blessing with incense, or water, or invite everyone to come forward with open hands and be blessed with a touch and/or words. Choose a musical selection.

## Canticle of Mary

A sung or spoken version. Could be sung as a meditation, possibly with dance.

## Intercessions

*See General Intercessions*

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# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016



## Prayer Service

Here I am, send me!

## **Call to Prayer**

Leader: O Lord, open our lips.  
All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Leader: Glory to you, Source of All Being,  
Eternal Word, and Holy Spirit.  
All: As it was in the beginning,  
is now and will be forever. Amen.

## **Opening Hymn**

## **Opening Prayer**

## **Psalmody**

## **Reading**

## **Reflection**

## **Response**

## **Intercessions**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

## **The Sign of Peace**

## **Concluding Prayer**

Leader: Let us pray:  
Holy God,  
All: With gratitude in our hearts,  
we praise you for your love and your fidelity.

You have shown us the way to holiness  
through Mary and Jesus and many faithful witnesses.

You continue to call men and women  
to dedicate their lives through the vows of  
poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Give them courage to respond generously to your call  
with "Here I am, send me!"

Blessed by your Spirit,  
may we always proclaim your love with our lives.  
Amen.

## **Closing Song**





### Prayer for Vocations

Holy God,  
during this Year of faith,

With gratitude in our hearts,  
we praise you for your love and your fidelity.

You have shown us the way to holiness  
through Mary and Jesus  
and many faithful witnesses.

You continue to call men and women  
to dedicate their lives through the vows of  
poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Give them courage to respond generously  
to your call with “Here I am, send me!”

Blessed by your Spirit,  
may we always proclaim your love  
with our lives. Amen.



### Prayer for Vocations

Holy God,  
during this Year of Faith,

With gratitude in our hearts,  
we praise you for your love and your fidelity.

You have shown us the way to holiness  
through Mary and Jesus  
and many faithful witnesses.

You continue to call men and women  
to dedicate their lives through the vows of  
poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Give them courage to respond generously  
to your call with “Here I am, send me!”

Blessed by your Spirit,  
may we always proclaim your love  
with our lives. Amen.



### Prayer for Vocations

Holy God,  
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Give them courage to respond generously  
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Blessed by your Spirit,  
may we always proclaim your love  
with our lives. Amen.

# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016



## BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Sunday, January 30, 2016

Next Sunday we will celebrate *World Day for Consecrated Life*. The Church is invited to remember with gratitude the women and men who have dedicated their lives in service to the mission of Jesus. We also want to pray that others will hear the call to consecrated life and respond generously. (*Add any other information about your observance of this day.*)

### Sunday, February 7, 2016

Today we rejoice and celebrate *World Day for Consecrated Life*. Over the years, many men and women have chosen to live out their baptismal vocation by professing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience. They do this by joining a religious congregation, a secular institute, or through private vows. We pray for these people (*You may wish to name people particular to your parish*) and ask God to bless our Church with others who will dedicate their lives to God's service. (*Add any other information about your observance.*)

Here I am, send me!

# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

February 7, 2016



## RESOURCES

### Serra's National Council for the United States

- *Operation Miryam & Joseph*
- Many other resources available

**Center for the Study of Religious Life** [www.religious-life.org](http://www.religious-life.org)

**Horizon: Journal of the National Religious Vocation Conference** [www.nrvc.net](http://www.nrvc.net)

**In-Formation**, a publication of the Religious Formation Conference [www.relforcon.org](http://www.relforcon.org)

### *Origins*

*Starting Afresh from Christ: A Renewed Commitment to Consecrated Life in the Third Millennium, July 4, 2002, Volume 32: Number 8* [www.originsonline.com](http://www.originsonline.com)

**Catholics on Call** [www.catholicsoncall.org](http://www.catholicsoncall.org)

**Vision Magazine** (Free resource)  
[www.vocationguide.org](http://www.vocationguide.org) (English) [www.vocacioncatolica.com](http://www.vocacioncatolica.com) (Spanish)

**Vita Consecrata: A Post Synod Exhortation by John Paul II** (1996)  
[www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org) Vita Consecrata

**Vocation and Prayer Magazine** [www.rogationists.org/vocationsandprayer.html](http://www.rogationists.org/vocationsandprayer.html)

**Discerning a call to religious life:** [www.consecrated-life.org](http://www.consecrated-life.org)

**United States Conference of Secular Institutes (USCSI)** [www.secularinstitutes.org](http://www.secularinstitutes.org)

**United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)** [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org)

**United States Association of Consecrated Virgins** <http://consecratedvirgins.org>



# WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE

FEBRUARY 7, 2016



Here I am, send me!

Come join us!

The USA Council of Serra International Vocations Committee is able to prepare and provide this planning kit to dioceses, parishes, schools, religious congregations, and Serra clubs at no cost through a generous grant from the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. Should you want to insure our ability to continue this program at no cost please consider a gift to the Bishop Britt Vocation Fund. For more information please contact the USA Council of Serra International 1-888-777-6681 or email. ©2015 USA Council of Serra International

# Mark your Calendars!

<b>World &amp; National Annual Events</b>	<b>2016 Year C</b>	<b>2017 Year A</b>	<b>2018 Year B</b>
National Vocation Awareness Week	November 6-12	November 5-11	November 4-10
World Day for Consecrated Life*	February 7	February 5	February 4
World Day of Prayer for Vocations**	April 17	May 7	April 22

\*The US Bishops observe WDCL on February 2 when that date falls on a Sunday; if not it is observed on the Sunday after February 2.

\*\*The Holy Father issues a pastoral letter each year for the celebration of World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This was unavailable at press time. It may be available at the Vatican Website closer to the date of the event (<http://www.vatican.va>).



## **USA Council of Serra International Our mission is to foster and affirm vocations to the priesthood and vowed religious life.**

Pray! Invite! Encourage! Affirm! Vocations

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The USA Council of Serra International would like to also thank Mr. Frank J. Zolvinski M.A., Coordinator of Religious Education and Dr. Kristopher W. Seaman, Director: Office of Worship/Diocesan Music for Diocese of Gary, IN for their time and thoughtful assistance in preparing these materials for our celebration National Vocation Awareness Week.

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