

**“A Year of Consecrated Life: An Undivided Heart”**  
**Retreat Day 10Oct15**  
**“Prophetic Witness in a Time of Anxiety: Worrying About the Right Things”**  
**Sr. Maria Pascuzzi, CSJ**

The eleventh of the Retreat Days planned for consecrated persons took place on October 10<sup>th</sup> in St. Thomas More Church on the Queens’ campus of St. John’s University. These spirituality days are a response to the encouragement of Pope Francis to make 2015 a year which celebrates Consecrated Life. The intent is to have one Retreat Day on the second Saturday of each month until January 2016. The planning for these sessions comes about as a result of the collaboration among the Diocese of Brooklyn, the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the Vincentian Family, and the Vincentian Center for Church and Society at St. John’s.

The presenter at this most recent conference was a Sister of St. Joseph of Brentwood, Sr. Maria Pascuzzi, CSJ, who spoke about “Prophetic Witness in a Time of Anxiety: Worrying About the Right Things.” This substantial title focused the presentation which insisted that the prophets witness to people of anxious hearts the certainty of God’s present activity, God’s character, God’s purpose, wisdom and love. These messengers teach the certainty of God’s power to do a new thing. Firmly grounded in the biblical witness, Sr. Maria explained how the prophets and Jesus lived in times of great turmoil when unease would be natural, yet they insisted on the consolation which came with the confidence that God was at work and doing new things. That same attitude should characterize our era and situations.

As usual, commencing with prayer and concluding with Eucharist offered wonderful bookends for those gathered to reflect upon the consecrated life.

The next Retreat Day will be on the second Saturday of November, the 14<sup>th</sup>, with a usual 2:00 PM start. Sr. Evelyn Eckhardt, DW will speak on “A Grateful Heart.” All consecrated persons of the dioceses, and any other diocese, are invited to attend. Please contact your diocesan representative for more information and registration.