

February 2, 2026 — World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

To the Members of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins,

I know that when we celebrate Consecrated Life we don't normally think of Baptism. Yet, our baptism is something that is at the very foundation of who we are as Christians, as Catholics. I would wager that for most of us, our baptism is not something that often comes to our mind. Yet, it was a day which changed our world, which set us on a new course, which gave us our identity as Catholics. So, assuming we have not thought about our own baptism in quite a while, let us reflect on what happened so long ago for most of us. For me, it was May 20th, 1951.

Jesus' own Baptism was sort of a commissioning ceremony. It was the beginning of Jesus' public ministry after thirty years of working quietly as a carpenter. So, when Jesus commanded that his followers spread the Good News and Baptize, he was giving us our consecrated commission as well.


Like any consecration, the gift of Baptism can be received and then exist, as it were, in a corked bottle within us. If there is no nurturing of the faith, then this would be to treat Baptism as if it were nothing and thus leave the grace, the life of Baptism bottled

up within us. Let us uncork this great means of grace already available to us and let us celebrate and live our baptism.



artwork by Marion Biestek

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Mos 

Bishop of Lansing

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By Dr. Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D.
Archdiocese of Miami (FL)

The Spirituality of the Consecrated Virgin, in the Rite of Consecration

“The custom of consecrating women to a life of virginity flourished even in the early Church. It led to the formation of a solemn rite constituting the candidate a sacred person, a transcendent sign of the Church's love for Christ, and an eschatological image of the world to come and the glory of the heavenly Bride of Christ. In the rite of consecration the Church reveals its love of virginity, begs God's grace on those who are consecrated, and prays with fervor for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.” (*Praenotanda* to the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity, 1)

“The Leonine or Veronese Sacramentary already contained the beautiful prayer of consecration, *Deus, castorum corporum*, composed by Pope Saint Leo the Great (440-461) and used even today by the Bishop in consecrating virgins. But the Rite passes and then returns, through the intricate jungle of the Romano-Germanic Pontificals, until the *Pontificale Romanum* of Clement VIII on February 10, 1596 was revised, becoming the basis for the Pontifical which has been valid until now. The result of this millennial process was a solemn and elaborate rite of consecration of virgins—the most elaborate of all the rites in the Pontifical, after the Ordo to consecrate a church—a complex and majestic rite, in which golden elements alternate with others of a much inferior alloy.

Since then, for four centuries, the rite remained intact; but—it must be noted immediately—it also from then fell completely into disuse. In the few environments in which the rite survived, they used their own liturgical books, as was the case among the Cistercian nuns. Most importantly, in the second half of the 19th century, at the initiative of Prosper Louis Pascal Guéranger, a French priest and Benedictine monk who served for nearly 40 years as the abbot of the monastery of Solesmes, beginning in the year 1833, there was a new start to the use of consecration in the Benedictine environments of France and Germany. Prosper Guéranger founded a community of four women under the rule of Saint Benedict. Even in this case, however, the rite used was not the Ordo contained in the Roman Pontifical, but rather an adaptation of the same, carried out by the celebrated liturgist, uniting elements typical of the *consecratio virginum* with others coming from the monastic tradition. With this state of affairs, the peremptory order of the Second Vatican Council that the rite of the *Consecratio virginum* be submitted to revision represented the authoritative acceptance of a deeply felt aspiration of some bishops, by some ascetic circles, and by some qualified liturgical environs.” (Magalis

Aguilera, “Something Ancient, Something New” in *The Lamp*, May 31, 2025)

Every single vocation in the Church is rooted in Christian spirituality emerging from the spring of that infinite fountain of the gifts the Holy Spirit gives to each one who follows the Divine Lord Jesus Christ's life and becomes His witness, living the vocation that points to the eternal kingdom to come.

The consecrated virgin, living in the ordinary circumstance of her century, is the holy presence of virginity, as was Eve in Paradise and continuing with Mary of Nazareth. Her “yes” or “*fiat*” is the golden key that opened the Paradisical promise and in the plenitude of time saw the fulfillment of the Eternal Father's promise to send His only Begotten Son “to ransom those under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. As proof that you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, Father’” (Gal 4: 5–6).

Through the Holy Spirit, at the very beginning of the Apostolic preaching of His kingdom, the Eternal Father showed His wish for the virginal vocation to flourish. The virgins in the Ancient Church looked upon Mary of Nazareth's pierced heart and the martyrdom of her heart in following Her Divine Son. The Mother of the Church was the virginal mirror as they gave up their lives in order to live the life of the Divine Spouse in His Passion, Death and Resurrection.

The virgins of the Ancient Church lived in love of their Divine Spouse as the Rite of Consecration, the solemn expression of the Church, proclaimed them to be: 1) a transcendent sign of the Church's love for Christ; 2) an eschatological image of the heavenly Bride of Christ; and 3) the life in the world to come.

A transcendent sign of the Church's love for Christ: The Church wants to reaffirm that the mission of our Divine Lord, Jesus Christ, is one of salvation, a salvation based on His own definition: “This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. No one can have greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you” (John 15: 12–14). The apostles loved Christ and gave up their lives for Him. The consecrated virgins love Christ, and they gave, and give, their lives for Him.

Every single consecrated virgin, and each of those called to consecration, is called to meditate and contemplate on the meaning of the heavenly Bride of Christ for she herself is living the mystical spousal relationship with the Divine Spouse. (Cfr. Judith Stegman doctoral dissertation “*Mystically Espoused to Christ, the Son of God (c. 604§1)*”: *The Basis for Proposing Juridic Principles to Guide the Development of Norms for the Ordo Virginum*).

The consecrated virgin is an icon of the Church of her Divine Spouse who proclaims the *world to come and the glory of the heavenly Bride of Christ*. She presents herself with the spirituality of a virgin who is inspired by the Most Blessed Virgin and Queen. Sacred virginity was left by Jesus Christ as His heritage to his Spouse, the Church. Every member of the Church is called to this spousal relationship with Christ, but the consecrated virgin is like a model of this life, for the Blessed Mother and the virgins of the Church live in absolute union with Jesus Christ, just as the Blessed Virgin did when she followed her Son in virginal, maternal love. Mary of Nazareth is our model as the one who lived in absolute and exclusive ablative love for her Son. The consecrated virgin is called to have Jesus Christ in absolute and exclusive possession of herself, and to live in His will, and to love Him alone, not giving her love to anyone else. The consecrated virgin, as her Immaculate Mother, lives in constant search of her Spouse's presence and being. Our Blessed Mother, the Mother of God's Son, was left with the beloved disciple and she loved her Son while donating herself in loving care, service, and prayer for the apostles of her Son and for the children of her Son's Church.

In the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity, the Church presents gestures that are like the interchange of the virgin's ablative vocation and appreciation for this ablative donation from the integral virgin's being: 1) the Church reveals its love for virginity; 2) the Church begs God's heavenly grace on the virgins; and 3) the Church prays earnestly for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Church shows clearly its love for virginity: We see this in the words of the Fathers of the Church who always raised to a great dignity the vocation of virginity. Many treatises and homilies of Church Fathers of the early centuries praise the state of consecrated virginity and are cited by later Bishops and theologians in their reflections on virginity. Saint Ambrose (4th Century), the Archbishop of Milan, had a sister, Saint Marcelina, who was a consecrated virgin. As a result of his preaching to young consecrated virgins in Milan, we are blessed to have four different books from Ambrose that are dedicated to consecrated virgins. One small book was written a few years before his death and dedicated to the virgin Ambrosia just before her consecration. The writings of St. Ambrose at once praise Christian virginity and defend the virginity of Mary, who at the time was being attacked by Bonosso of Sardis. St. Ambrose wrote:

“What human intelligence can really understand virginity, which is beyond the laws of nature, or what human words can explain what is beyond all natural laws? The model for what was to be imitated on earth came from heaven. And it was only appropriate that

she would go to heavenly norms of behavior since her Groom was in heaven. Virginity, rising above the clouds, the angels and the saints, found the Word of God in the Father's own bosom and drank deeply His love. Well, then, who would leave such goodness once she found it? ‘Fragrant oil is your name. For it the young women loved and attracted you.’” (Saint Ambrose, *De Virginitate*, V. 25, 26, Claret's Editions, 1977, quoted by Dr Magalis Aguilera, “Something Ancient, Something New” in *The Lamp*, August 2005)

Saint Ambrose reminded the consecrated virgins in his Ecclesial community to look to our Blessed Mother as the perfect model for a virgin: “Let Mary's life be the model for virgins, like an image on a canvas; in her, as in a mirror, shines the beauty of chastity and all virtue. From her you can obtain examples of life, which in her, as in a sampler, show the manifest teachings of sanctity. This is what you must correct, what you must reform, what you must keep” (Ibid).

The Church begs God's heavenly grace on the virgins: “Lord, hear the prayers of your Church. Look with favor on your handmaid. whom you have called in your love. Set them on the way of eternal salvation; may they seek only what is pleasing to you, and fulfil it with watchful care. Through Christ our Lord.” (Prayer, Rite of Consecration 21)

The Church prays earnestly for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit: Quoted above is the closing of the ancient consecratory prayer that the Church pronounces over the virgin being consecrated. This Word of God and the complete Eucharistic prayer are the most sacred prayers the Church makes for virgins as She implores the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Where and when, in time and space, was the first virgin who received the outpouring of the Holy Spirit? In the history of salvation there appeared a woman hidden in a town of the promised land. Time and space? The time was the year 754 or 747-748 from the founding of Rome, and the space was a city of Galilee in Nazareth. The year is recorded in two different times because there was a calculation error of the Eastern monk Dionysius the Exiguus in the sixth century that set Jesus' birthday in the year 754 of Rome, but it was corroborated later that Jesus Christ was actually born 6 or 7 years earlier, that is, in 747-748 of Rome. (As we commonly refer to these years, Dionysius set Jesus' birthday in the year 1 A.D. but the corrected date places His birth sometime between 7 and 4 B.C.) (Cfr. *Anno Domini: The Origins of the Christian Era* by Georges DeClercq, 2000).

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was closed with the ancient door of Paradise, and was opened again at the door of the house of a virgin of Nazareth—a virgin who

lived her years of pre-adolescence and adolescence in the Jerusalem Temple where she was prepared by the Holy Spirit to know, love, and serve the Eternal Father when discerning His will for her.

The Holy Spirit needs the virgin's soul and being to be in silence, solitude and service to God's will so that she might understand and live in expectation that the "plenitude of time was fulfilled" and in wisdom prepare herself to live the integral state of her being as was given to Eve in Paradise.

She, our Mother and Queen, was prepared to receive the essence of virginity coming from the Holy Trinity, as was in the first woman created in Paradise. We consecrated virgins in the world have received sacramental baptism and our integral being receives the essence of the Holy Trinity; our virginity is the same as Eve's—it is received from God's essence! Mary of Nazareth was created in her mother's womb in perfect image and likeness to the first woman in Paradise. The Eternal Father's will in Paradise "created" Mary of Nazareth with freedom to accept the plan of creation in our human existence. She fulfilled the will of the Eternal Father and said *Yes ... Fiat*.

Virginal spirituality is rooted in that image of Paradise: the human being, as created in the virginal essence of the Holy Trinity, is restored to her. The virginal vocation is a gift coming from the Eternal Father's creation upon us. This is the solid fact of why the Church prays during the virginal consecration for "the outpouring of the Holy Spirit" upon us. The Holy Spirit seals the virgin in the mystical essence of the new grace she receives. The old door in Paradise is closed forever and her *Yes* opens the "house door" of her virginal being, enlightening in her being the fact that she is witness to her Spouse resurrected, who will celebrate with His Church the Eternal Wedding in the Eternal Life to come.

We will continue to contemplate our virginal spirituality in the Rite of Consecration and how our Most Blessed Queen lived the holy rule of her being a virgin-mother of her Son's Church.

CONSECRATION TO A LIFE OF VIRGINITY

INTRODUCTION

I. NATURE AND VALUE OF CONSECRATION TO VIRGINITY

1 The custom of consecrating women to a life of virginity flourished even in the early Church. It led to the formation of a solemn rite constituting the candidate a sacred person, a surpassing sign of the Church's love for Christ, and an eschatological image of the world to come and the glory of the heavenly Bride of Christ. In the rite of consecration the Church reveals its love of virginity, begs God's grace on those who are consecrated, and prays with fervor for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

II. PRINCIPAL DUTIES OF THOSE CONSECRATED

2 Those who consecrate their chastity under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit do so for the sake of more fervent love of Christ and of greater freedom in the service of their brothers and sisters.

They are to spend their time in works of penance and of mercy, in apostolic activity and in prayer, according to their state of life and spiritual gifts.

To fulfill their duty of prayer they are strongly advised to celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours each day, especially Lauds and Vespers. In this way, by joining their voices to those of Christ the High Priest and of his Church, they will offer unending praise to the heavenly Father and pray for the salvation of the whole world.

III. THOSE WHO MAY BE CONSECRATED

3 This consecration may be received by nuns or by women living in the world.

4 In the case of nuns it is required:

- a) that they have never married or lived in public or open violation of chastity;
- b) that they have made their perpetual profession, either in the same rite or on an earlier occasion;
- c) that their religious family uses this rite either by established custom or by new permission of the competent authority.

5 In the case of women living in the world it is required:

- a) that they have never married or lived in public or open violation of chastity;
- b) that by their age, prudence, and universally approved character they give assurance of perseverance in a life of chastity dedicated to the service of the Church and of their neighbor;
- c) that they be admitted to this consecration by the Bishop who is the Ordinary of the place.

It is for the Bishop to decide on the conditions under which women living in the world are to undertake a life of perpetual virginity.

“Make ready your lamps!”

On this Feast of the Presentation, World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, the celebration of Candlemas, may these words from the liturgies of the Church help us to keep our lamps burning brightly:

- “To enlighten the world, Father, you sent to us your Word as the sun of truth and justice shining upon mankind. Illumine our eyes that we may discern your glory in the many works of your hand.” (Psalm Prayer, February 2 Office of Readings)
- “Arise and shine, Jerusalem, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.” (Antiphon, February 2 Office of Readings)
- “Be wise, make ready your lamps, Behold the Bridegroom comes; go out to meet him.” (Calling of Candidates, Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity)
- The candidates then light their lamps or candles and approach the sanctuary and stand outside it. (rubrics, Calling of Candidates, rite of consecration)
- “Let your light then shine before men and women, that your Father in heaven may be glorified, and his plan of making all things one in Christ come to perfection.” (Suggested homily, Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity)
- Speaking to the Lord, the Bishop prays in the prayer of consecration, “Only you can kindle this flame of love, and feed its brightness, giving strength and perseverance to our will.”

Saint Sophronius explains in today's Office of Readings:

“In honor of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light. Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.”



By Diane Christine Farr

All Christians are exhorted by St. Paul to pray always. What does this look like in the life of the consecrated virgin? Here are some thoughts and practice ideas. Let us ponder two antiphons from the Common of Virgins in the Liturgy of the Hours: “With my whole heart I worship Christ. I long for Him forever”; and “O virgins praise the Lord with all your heart. He sowed the seeds of your virtue. He crowned the fruits of your life with His gifts.” These beautifully expressive antiphons highlight the fact that our entire self is involved in our prayerful attitude toward our God. They indicate a thankful gratitude for all that we have received from Him. Jesus has indeed sown the seeds of our vocation deep within our hearts, enabling us to experience the joy of virginal love for Him. It is our task to cultivate this holy love at every moment of our lives.

As brides of Christ, we must never fail to appreciate the grace of virginity that He has bestowed upon us. We are forever grateful for our baptism as well as the grace of the consecration of virgins. He truly crowned our lives with His gifts including the many areas where we exercise the gift of service. He also blesses us with rich and fruitful gifts of prayer.

God gives us the gift of living and praying in His will that we might do everything with Him and through Him. We make our morning offering asking Jesus to do everything with and in us. Our first duty toward our creator is to come before Him in loving adoration and grateful thanksgiving for our existence. We come into the presence of the most Holy Trinity in a spirit of adoration and praise. Our desire is to offer a requital of love for the infinite love which embraces us.

We may place our love for our God on all the works of His creation as well as all the works of redemption which were accomplished for our salvation. Pondering them within our heart we make them our own. We may also place our love on all the works of sanctification that are made manifest in the depth of our souls by the Holy Spirit.

As brides of Christ, we are called to have virginal hearts in continuous prayer. Our goal is to be perfectly united to Jesus. We unclutter our hearts, handing over our miseries and frailties to Him. Surrendering into His

hands, we allow the power of divine grace to enlighten us and transform our lives. Our Eternal Father has drawn us into a prayerful communion with His beloved Son and the Holy Spirit has revealed Him to us as our only Bridegroom. In order to remain in continuous prayer, it is important to gently refocus our attentiveness toward the Divine indwelling. This does not mean we will always perceive sensibly God’s presence. As we make the sign of the cross and pray the Gloria, we call to mind that we wish to glorify the three Divine persons in every aspect of our lives. At designated times of prayer, we try to take our time and with deep humility we recall we are always in the presence of our God. We may ask the Holy Spirit to show us a deeper meaning in the Psalms and prayers as we pray the Liturgy of the Hours. Perhaps phrases may stand out to us as we pray. Besides prayers of praise and thanksgiving, prayers of petition and intercessory prayers for others is vital to our spiritual lives. We pray for a perfect fulfilment of the Divine Will in the lives of all people.

Lifting up all souls into the healing power of God’s love we ask for an outpouring of the light of Divine Wisdom.

As we enter into the mysteries of the rosary, we unite with our holy Mother Mary in pondering the events of the life of her Divine Son. The rosary becomes a salvific prayer when offered for the salvation and sanctification of souls. Offering our sufferings united to those of Christ is a powerful prayer for the same purpose.

We strive to exercise great attentiveness while participating at Mass for it is the most solemn time of prayer. (See my reflection; “Praying with the Mass.”) Prayer must become the life of the soul of the consecrated virgin. A continuous communion with our Divine Lord and Bridegroom will be a great strength against all trials.

Short prayers of aspiration help us to keep focused on our Lord’s presence. They also aid us in times of spiritual darkness. Prayed throughout the day, they help to build our confidence. As assistance, these prayers may also lead us into a more contemplative mode of prayer where we become immersed in God. Here are a few of these prayers: Jesus and Mary, I love you, save souls; My God and my all; Jesus, I trust in you; Sacred

heart of Jesus reign in all hearts. The Jesus Prayer is another well-known short repetitive prayer: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner.

Many times when we are dealing with situations, God calls us to trust Him beyond what we think should happen. It is true that things often take time and we must exercise great confidence and trust. Jesus wishes to bestow His peace on us that we may rest completely in Him. We pray for counsel, guidance and direction in all that we do. We need great courage and patience to respond well to the circumstances of life. We pray to change ourselves not God. Prayer must become the life of the soul of the consecrated virgin. Times of silence are absolutely necessary for spiritual growth.

The interior life may be compared to a beautiful garden that we cultivate along with our Divine Lord and Bridegroom. Everything in this garden speaks to us of His presence and draws us into a greater intimacy with him. We discover many hidden wonders and flowers of Divine grace in this garden. This garden of prayer reflects the garden of the resurrection, where Jesus makes His appearance. He gives us the greatest treasure, the gift of Himself. As brides of Christ, we have been espoused to the One who is infinite and eternal love. May we give ourselves completely to that love and allow it to be reflected in the lives of those around us. As we contemplate the beauty of Jesus our Bridegroom, let us pray to become transformed in Him and love all others with His own heart. All praise and all Thanksgiving be given to the most Holy Trinity. Amen

Pray With Us! Virtual Vespers

Consecrated virgins, candidates, and friends continue to join for Virtual Vespers on various feast days of our Divine Spouse, our Blessed Virgin Mother, and virgin saints. A few days before each time of prayer, a link will be sent to all consecrated virgins and those who have attended a recent Information Conference. If you do not receive a link and would like to participate, please contact info@consecratedvirgins.org.

Upcoming Virtual Vespers dates:

- + Tuesday, February 10, 2026, Saint Scholastica, 8:00pm ET
- + February 22, 2026 5:00pm ET, traditional Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, First Sunday of Lent, Virtual Vespers in celebration of the 40 year anniversary of consecration of Magalis Aguilera.
- + March 19, 2026 8:00pm ET for the Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Life Corner

By Florence Sundberg

Consecrated persons "...are invited to celebrate together solemnly the marvels which the Lord has accomplished in them, to discover by a more illumined faith the rays of divine beauty spread by the Spirit in their way of life, and to acquire a more vivid consciousness of their irreplaceable mission in the Church and in the world. Immersed in a world which is often agitated and distracted, taken up sometimes by the press of responsibilities, consecrated persons also will be helped by the celebration of this annual World Day to return to the sources of their vocation to take stock of their own lives, to confirm the commitment of their own consecration" (Life Issues Institute).

This is also the day to pray for the lives of the pre-born and their mothers and to pray that we who are the spouses of Christ will nurture the spiritual life within ourselves and others, by the charism of virginity, a virginity which contains the seeds of Christ's love which, when generated, bring His life and His love into a world darkened by chaos and violence. All the lost, the lonely, the broken can be brought to Jesus by those who are His own. The spouse of Christ can turn to Jesus, as Mary did at the wedding feast at Cana, and say simply: "Jesus, they are lost and broken and they need You." And Jesus will welcome them, the lost and the broken, and He will heal them and make them whole in His love. Then He will send them forth to bring His gifts of love and mercy to all who long for Him although they do not know it—yet. May God's blessing be upon all, especially the babies in the womb and their mothers.

SERVING THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY

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International Resource Center section of the USACV-IRC

The leadership team of the International Resource Center section of the USACV-IRC, chaired by Dr. Magalis Aguilera, has held two virtual discussions of Dr. Aguilera's "Something Ancient, Something New" articles that have appeared in *The Lamp*. Consecrated virgins and candidates from various parts of the world have participated in these opportunities to deepen our knowledge of the history and theology of the rite of consecration to a life of virginity.

The next discussion is planned for 9:00 pm EST on February 13, 2026. Although this time isn't ideal for many, it seemed to be the best time for most who expressed interest. We will discuss the SASN article from the May 2025 issue of *The Lamp*, entitled "The New Grace in the Most Ancient Call for Virgins Living in the Ordinary Circumstances of Their Centuries."

If you are interested in participating in the February 13 discussion, or if you would like to receive a recording, please send an email to president@consecratedvirgins.org. We will send a link and a pdf of the article to those interested in participating.

Volume III of the Ordo Virginum series

Thank you to all who have written on the lives of virgin saints, on the Blessed Virgin Mary, participated in editing, or submitted artwork for this third volume of our Ordo Virginum series. Along with other images, the volume will include professional photographs of the

mosaics of virgin saints from the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, in Washington, D.C. We plan to have the book completed and available at the 2026 convocation in Green Bay, Wisconsin.



artwork by Marion Biestek

USACV Leadership Team Elections

Consecrated virgin Lauren Gault is coordinating the election and has sent ballots, position descriptions, and candidate autobiographical statements to all eligible voters. If you haven't received your ballot materials or if you have questions, please contact Lauren at imgault22@gmail.com. Ballots are due back to Lauren by February 13, 2026 and election results will be announced February 18.

A Note from the Archivist

Anne Gishpert, USACV-IRC archivist, reminds consecrated virgins who have not done so to please send her a copy of your consecration certificate (providing this copy also enables United States virgins to be full voting members of the USACV). Anne also keeps the USACV "family" albums, which include mementos from consecrations. You are warmly invited to send Anne the program, invitation, holy cards, photos, or other items from your consecration. Anne especially asks those consecrated in recent years to send these so that she can update our albums. The "family" albums travel each year to our convocation, and always bring smiles and memories. You can email Anne at anne.gishpert@gmail.com.

Recordings Available!

Links to recordings from the Virtual Information Conference are available. If you attended the 2024 or 2025 conference and would like to receive a link, at no charge, please email info@consecratedvirgins.org with your request. If you did not attend the conference, links to the recordings are available for purchase through our online store at www.secure.consecratedvirgins.org/. Recordings from the 2025 Virtual Information Conference are being prepared.

Ordo Virginum Brochures Available

The USACV has thousands of beautiful tri-fold printed pamphlets on our vocation that were prepared by consecrated virgins for the National Eucharistic Congress. These are not yet available in our USACV online store, but you may order some for displays in parishes, schools, or diocesan offices, or to have available to distribute at a consecration. The cost is \$5 for 25 pamphlets; \$15 for 100 pamphlets; or \$70 for 500, plus shipping. To order, just send an email to info@consecratedvirgins.org letting us know what you would like (number and English or Spanish), and the mailing address. We'll let you know the cost, including shipping.

Upcoming Events

February 9, 2026 *Ordo virginum* Candidate Discussion Group on the topic, “Articulating the Call to Consecrated Virginité with Friends, Family, Parish, and the Public,” presented by consecrated virgin Claire Halbur. See page 11 for more information.

February 10, 2026, 8:00pm ET, Virtual Vespers, Pray with Us! on the Memorial of Saint Scholastica.

February 13, 2026, 9:00 ET. International Resource Center (IRC) Discussion chaired by Dr. Magalis Aguilera on the “Something Ancient, Something New” article from the May 2025 issue of *The Lamp*, entitled “The New Grace in the Most Ancient Call for Virgins Living in the Ordinary Circumstances of Their Centuries.” This English-language discussion is open to consecrated virgins, candidates, and serious inquirers from any part of the world. If you are interested in participating, send an email to president@consecratedvirgins.org.

February 22, 2026, 5:00 pm ET, Virtual Vespers, traditional Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, First Sunday of Lent, Virtual Vespers in celebration of the 40-year anniversary of consecration of Magalis Aguilera. Consecrated virgins will be sent a link.

March 19, 2026, 8:00 pm ET, Virtual Vespers, Pray with Us! Solemnity of Saint Joseph.

May 4, 2026 *Ordo virginum* Candidate Discussion Group on the topic, “Liturgy of the Hours: Incorporating a Rhythm of Praying the Divine Office while Living in the World,” presented by consecrated virgin Elizabeth Black.

May 31, 2026 Publication of *The Lamp*

June 19 to 23, 2026, United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins, Green Bay, Wisconsin at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality at St. Norbert Abbey. Theme: “Virginal Love for the Bridegroom.” See page 12 for more information.

August 3, 2026 *Ordo virginum* Candidate Discussion Group on the topic, “Living Arrangements for Consecrated Virgins: Possibilities, Considerations, and Recommendations,” presented by Dr. Judith M. Stegman, JCD.

September 4–6, 2026, 1:00-6:00pm ET each day, Virtual Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginité. See page 11 for more information.

September 8, 2026 Publication of *The Lamp*

December 12, 2026 Publication of *The Lamp*

February 2, 2027 Publication of *The Lamp*

June 25 to 29, 2027 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins

USACV and International Resource Center for the *Ordo Virginum* Leadership Team Members and Officers

USACV Leadership Team

Eileen Belongea 2025-2027; Archdiocese of Milwaukee (WI). (*Convocations Planning Team Leader*).

Claire Halbur 2024-2026; Diocese of Phoenix (AZ). (*Secretary of the USACV-IRC, Music Team Leader*).

Elizabeth Lam 2023-2025; Diocese of Oakland (CA). (*Website Team Member*).

Lorraine Manlolo 2025-2027; Diocese of Honolulu (HI). (*ETapestry/Membership Team Member, IRC Team Member*).

Francesca Riddick 2025-2027; Diocese of Joliet (IL). (*ETapestry/Membership Team Leader*).

IRC Leadership Team

Magalis Aguilera; USA, Archdiocese of Miami (FL). (*Chairperson IRC*).

Judith Stegman, President of the USACV-IRC 2019-2025; USA, Archdiocese of Miami (FL).

Maria Luisa Meza; EL SALVADOR, Diocese of Santa Ana/San Miguel.

Renu Rita Silvano; INDIA, Archdiocese of Bombay.

Noemi Angeles; PHILIPPINES, Diocese of Malolos

One Unfilled Position

Other USACV-IRC Services, among others

Leandra Hubka; Diocese of Winona-Rochester (MN). Coordinator of the Candidate Discussion Group.

Diane LeMay; Diocese of Columbus (OH). Website Team Leader.

Julie Radachy; Diocese of Knoxville (TN). Social Media Team Leader. Concierge and technical assistant for Information Conference.

Amanda Schrauth; Diocese of Helena (MT). Publication of *The Lamp*.

Karen Webb 2024-2026; Diocese of Rochester (NY). USACV-IRC Treasurer.

Submissions Accepted

If you would like to submit an article or artwork for consideration in a future edition of *The Lamp*, please email it to info@consecratedvirgins.org. We accept articles and artwork from consecrated virgins related to our vocation or related to Our Lady and the virgin saints. If you would like to write and submit a remembrance or memorial for a deceased consecrated virgin to be published in a future edition of *The Lamp*, please email it to info@consecratedvirgins.org.

In Memory of Our Deceased Sister: Rosalynn Graf



*Eternal rest grant onto
her, O Lord,
and let perpetual light
shine upon her.
May she rest in peace.*

Rosalynn Graf
August 27, 1937 to
January 16, 2026

Consecrated virgin
Rosalynn Graf of the
Archdiocese of Saint Paul
and Minneapolis, passed to
eternal life on January 16,

2026. Many of us recall attending her consecration just three years ago, when she was one of the group of four consecrated by Archbishop Hebda. Some memories of Rosalynn from two virgins who were consecrated with her on March 25, 2023:

I met Rosalynn and got to know her during formation. She was kind, funny, and soft spoken. Her desire to follow the Lord, wherever he called her to go, was an inspiration for me when I became discouraged. I found her to be a lady of few, but wise, words and that really came through as she, Lynn, Jan and I prepared for our consecration in 2023.

I ask Rosalynn, my sister in Christ, to pray for us so we may not become discouraged and to look to our Divine Spouse for all our needs. May Rosalynn rest in the loving arms of Jesus.

- Pam Schleicher

As our dear Archbishop Bernard A. Hebda said so beautifully during the funeral homily, "Rosalynn was a woman of deep faith." She embraced the Cross so well and would repeatedly say, "Whatever the Lord wants..." resigned to His Providence.

Rosalynn had felt called by the Lord -when quite young - to be His Bride, and joined a religious order but requested dispensation and left the convent due to the sudden changes of the 1960s. She dedicated her life to His service as a laywoman, and then she heard about the vocation of Consecrated Virginity, much later in life.

During the USACV convocation in LaCrosse, Wisconsin, just prior to our consecration, Rosalynn fell outside where we gathered at the park, and ended up in the emergency room, and this began a new series of medical crosses for her.

As Rosalynn was slowly getting weaker in body, she was growing stronger in the Lord and her desire to be His Bride. She used a cane to climb the sanctuary stairs at our consecration (4 of us were consecrated) on March 25th, 2023 and let Our Lord carry her over the threshold as His Bride for the rest of her days.

Rosalynn's niece said that 'Aunt Rosie' had a stroke, then required care in a nursing home, where she died on hospice, very similar to her own mother whom she was very close to.

Rosalynn, we thank you for the love you showed us during our formation together. We'll miss you. Pray for us as we pray for you.

- Lynn Kemmetmueller

Consecration Announcement

**January 4, 2026 —
Solemnity of the Epiphany
of the Lord — Maria Arifa
Habib**, at the hands of The
Most Reverend Donald
Hying, Bishop of Madison
(WI).



Upcoming Consecrations

We are unaware of any upcoming consecrations. If you would like to submit one, please email info@consecratedvirgins.org. Please let us know so we can announce!

2026 Information Conference for the Ordo Virginum

The USACV-IRC is pleased to announce the 2026 Information Conference on the *Ordo Virginum*, which will be held in a virtual format once again. The conference includes prayer, testimonials from consecrated virgins, presentations on significant aspects of the vocation of consecrated virginity lived *in speculo*, and times for questions and answers. Presenters include Bishop Earl Boyea, Episcopal Moderator for the USACV and, among others, consecrated virgins Dr. Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D. and Dr. Judith M. Stegman, JCD.

This conference is a valuable resource for anyone with a serious interest in discovering more about the vocation of consecrated virginity, including those who are pursuing the consecration as aspirants or candidates; diocesan delegates for consecrated life; diocesan vocation directors; other diocesan representatives responsible for discernment and formation for this vocation; and consecrated virgins themselves.

The Information Conference is a prerequisite for participation in the Candidate Discussion Groups.

2026 Virtual Information Conference on the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity

Dates: Friday to Sunday, September 4 to 6, 2025

Time: 1:00-6:00pm ET each day

Format: Webinar

Coordinators: Judith Stegman, Julie Radachy, and Leadership Teams of the USACV and IRC

Presentation topics:

† Overview of Vocations in the Catholic Church, and the Ecclesial Identification of the *Ordo virginum*

† The Liturgical Rite of Consecration and the Marian Dimension of the Vocation

† The Liturgy of the Hours and Prayer Life of the Consecrated Virgin

† Historical Aspects of the Consecration of Virgins; Virgin Saints

† Sacred Scripture and the Witness of the *Ordo Virginum*, in *Ecclesiae sponsae imago*

† Mystical Espousal to Christ, the Son of God

† Living *in saeculo* and in the Local Church

† Personal Testimonies of Consecrated Virgins

† Psychological Maturity for Living the Virginal Vocation

† Prerequisites for Admission to the Virginal Consecration

† Stages of Preparation for Admission to the *Ordo virginum*

† About Associations, the *Ordo virginum*, and Next Steps

Ordo Virginum Candidate Discussion Group 2025-2026

On November 3, the first session of the 2025-2026 season of the Candidate Discussion Group (CDG) featured consecrated virgin Elizabeth Rizzo presenting on "Consecrated Virginity: A Vocation of Hope to the World." The next upcoming session is in February, and it is not too late to register!

The CDG is a discussion opportunity for aspirants and candidates for the *Ordo virginum*. Sponsored by the USACV, the CDG is designed to be a supplement (not a substitute) for diocesan-based formation for consecration in the *Ordo virginum*. The CDG meets quarterly, online, for one hour, to hear presentations and engage in guided discussion regarding relevant aspects of the life of consecrated virginity.

Who is invited to participate?

• *Ordo virginum* aspirants or candidates who meet the following criteria:

• They have been accepted for formation in their local diocese

• They have previously attended the USACV Information Conference

• Diocesan delegates for the *Ordo virginum*

• Consecrated virgins

Registration

Those who would like to join the remaining sessions of the CDG can find information and online registration on the USACV website (<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/UnitedStatesAssnofConsecula/registrationOVCandidateDiscussionGroup2025-2026.html>). Recordings will be provided after each presentation, for those unable to attend live. There is no cost to register and you can direct questions to consecrated virgin CDG coordinator Leandra Hubka, at info@consecratedvirgins.org.

Remaining 2025-2026 Season Dates and Topics

February 9, 2026: "Articulating the Call to Consecrated Virginity with Friends, Family, Parish, and the Public," presented by Claire Halbur

May 4, 2026: "Liturgy of the Hours: Incorporating a Rhythm of Praying the Divine Office while Living in the World," presented by Elizabeth Black

August 3, 2026: "Living Arrangements for Consecrated Virgins: Possibilities, Considerations, and Recommendations," presented by Dr. Judith Stegman, JCD

United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins

Diocese of Green Bay, Wisconsin

June 19-23, 2026



Theme: Virginal Love for the Bridegroom

Join us for the 2026 convocation of consecrated virgins in historic Green Bay, Wisconsin, known for its rich spiritual heritage, and home of the iconic Green Bay Packers (Titletown). We will stay in the newly renovated Norbertine Center for Spirituality at St Norbert Abbey. Situated on 160 acres of natural and landscaped beauty, this serene setting invites contemplation. You'll be nourished with daily Mass, adoration, chanted communal Liturgy of the Hours, time for personal prayer, and fellowship, as we also celebrate 30 years as an association of consecrated virgins!

Registration to open March 1.

Register early to ensure your spot!

- For those flying, book your travel to/from Green Bay Austin Straubel Airport (GRB).
- Convocation opens with Mass and dinner on Friday evening 6/19.
- Convocation ends Tuesday 6/23 after Lauds, Mass, and breakfast.
- Optional extension days with visit to:
 - Our Lady of Champion
 - National Shrine of St Joseph
 - Holy Hill
 - Peshtigo Fire Museum
 - Eastern Terminus of the National Scenic Ice Age Trail
 - Historic Lambeau Field

Cost:

- Convocation registration (meals + private room & bath for 4 nights): \$725*
- Convocation registration (meals + shared room & bath for 4 nights): \$530*
- Optional two day extension:
 - Private \$240 (plus entrance fees, if any)
 - Shared \$185 (plus entrance fees, if any)
- *Extra nights for early arrival or extended stay:*
 - Private @ \$75-95/night
 - Shared @ \$47.50/night

**All costs are approximate. Private room fees will be lower if smaller room is chosen. Costs increase by \$50/person after April 15 (online registration).*

Questions? Eileen Belongea

(andeileen237@gmail.com or 262-719-5109)