

The Lamp

Volume 31, Issue 3 — September 15, 2026

United States Association of Consecrated Virgins
SERVING THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY
USACV
www.consecratedvirgins.org

September 8, 2026 (original date) — The Birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary

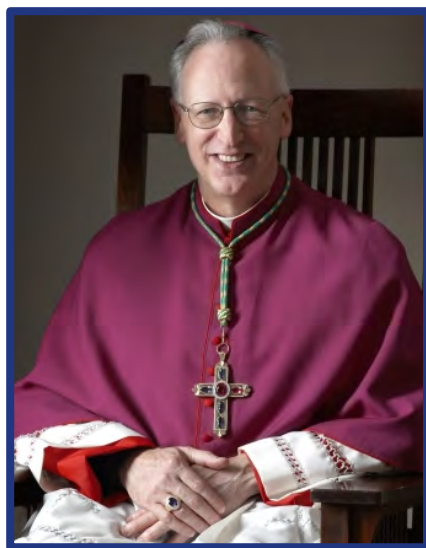
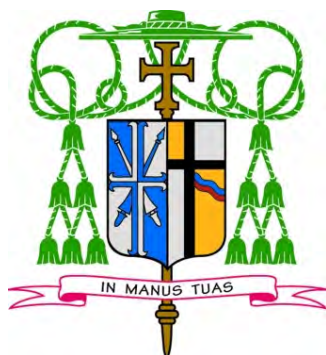
To the Members of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins,

As we celebrate Mary's birthday, it amazes me that we are all born as creatures of the All-powerful God who has chosen each of us as an act of perfect and total love to be and to be for him. In our Baptism, we become beloved sons and daughters of this Good God which enables us to make a total love back to that same Father. You, my sisters, have then consecrated that Baptismal love by espousing yourselves to Jesus Christ as a perfect gift. This generosity, of course, must be renewed and confirmed each and every day, but especially on this day, the birthday of our Lady since her espousal in the Holy Spirit has been such a grace to each of us.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Earl Boyea

Most Reverend Earl Boyea
Bishop of Lansing



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

In the “Something Ancient, Something New” article of this issue of *The Lamp*, we write about the spirituality of our Most Blessed Mother as mirrored in the Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity, which is like the continuation of her own rite of obedience and *fiat*. The Eternal Father pronounced the sentence to the rebellious Angel, stabilizing enmity between him and the woman and her descendants: “She will crush your head and you will be below her feet. . .” Head is dominion, head is control, and head in the rebellious angel is the capacity to produce confusion in our minds. The rebellious Angel’s head was crushed by Jesus Christ, the descendant of the woman who crushed the devil’s power under His feet. With the Yes of the obedient virgin of Nazareth, all the children of her Son’s Church, when baptized, become descendants of the only begotten Son of the Eternal Father—the Son who was obedient until death, and death on a cross (cfr. Gen. 3:15 and Phil. 2:8).

The consecrated virgin, in the first century of the Church and continuing to the present century, has received her call from the Eternal Father, as our Most Blessed Mother and Queen received it. She fulfilled the Father’s will through her call to be both a virgin and a mother, and the words of the Bishop’s homily at our consecrations express the Father’s call to us: “Their consecration is a call to greater fervor in spreading the Kingdom of God and in giving to the world the spirit of Christ.” The Mother, Queen and Model of Virgins, is the faithful virgin of Nazareth who showed Her “greater fervor” by following her Son in His mission to spread and establish the Kingdom of God. We are called as she was called to spread and establish the Kingdom of God through our witness to the heavenly home.

In our spirituality, illuminated by her spirituality, we, as virgins like her, are called to live as she lived and to

fulfill the will of the Eternal Father during our pilgrimage to the Eternal House. We contemplate her expressions of silence, her sharing of service, and her times of solitude, always lived in holy expectation of fulfilling God’s will in her being as the one called to be the virginal mother of the Eternal Son.

The consecrated virgin has in her YES (her *fiat*) as she responds to God’s call to the mystical life of virginity, the life of our Blessed Mother who lived guided by the Holy Spirit. She was consecrated by the Holy Spirit and we are also consecrated by Him during the consecratory prayer at the hands of the Bishop.

The consecrated virgin joins our Blessed Mother in her prayers for Her Son’s Church, that work of intercession she did and does for the Church, and in the “abundant blessings” that we obtain from our Eternal Father as our Mother obtained for the holy Church. We are living in the ordinary circumstances of our century as she lived in her century. She was an icon of the Eternal Father’s love for the Church and we are called to live that same meaning of faithful love in the midst of our present time, for all human society, and for our families (cfr. short homily to the candidates and people gathered, Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity, 16).

When the Bishop finishes addressing his short homily to the candidates and the people present, he addresses the candidates (or candidate): “And now we speak to you, dear daughters. Our words are not words of command but encouragement from the heart. . .” (Homily, Rite of Consecration to a Life of Virginity, 16).

He directs their attention and future life to several aspects of the ongoing process of being a bride of Christ: 1) Your life has its home in heaven and God is the source. 2) He gives to the virgin the grace of virginity from Himself, who is pure and holy. His unique essence of virginity created first in Eve and Adam in Paradise is given to you. Your virginal body and soul are transformed in the consecratory prayers to

that first creation in Paradise. 3) “Those whom he gives it—the gift of virginity—are seen by the Fathers of the Church as images of the eternal and all-holy God” (*ibid*).

The meaning of the virginal vocation is rooted in the mystery of God Virgin and His will to create Eve and Adam in virginal being. The promise to re-create the virginal state of a human being has its stronghold in Mary of Nazareth’s call. In the mystery of the Incarnation the almighty Father showed His love for the great virtue of virginity: “in the chaste womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Word was made flesh, in a marriage covenant uniting two natures, human and divine” (*ibid*).

That is our Most Blessed Mother’s spirituality: to bring the Son of God to this limited and finite earth in time, to give Him a mother’s womb as the New Ark of the Covenant, in a marriage of the Divine Son with His Spouse the Church. Mary of Nazareth lived for her Son’s mission during and after His Ascension to Heaven, the “eternal home.”

The words quoted below illustrate the spousal meaning of the “marriage covenant” in each one of the virgins He has called since her mother’s womb, confirming His call in the baptismal waters, and giving the plenitude of her call in the consecratory prayer with a New Grace, that is, the grace to set the virgin in the innocence of her being as woman in Paradise, as an Icon of the heavenly kingdom:

“But when the Almighty, the Most High, wedded a bride who was weak and of low estate, he made that maidservant a queen. He took her from her place behind him, at his feet, and enthroned her at his side. She had been born from his side, and therefore he betrothed her to himself. And as all that belongs to the Father belongs also to the Son because by nature they are one, so also the bridegroom gave all he had to the bride and he shared in all that was hers. He made her one both with

himself and with the Father. Praying for his bride, the Son said to the Father: *I want them to be one with us, even as you and I are one*” (*A Sermon by blessed Isaac of Stella: Sermon 11, PL 194, 1728-1729*). There is a true transformation in the virgin who is consecrated.

Quoting again from the homily in the Rite of Consecration, in the Roman Pontifical: “*By His whole life, and especially by His labors, His preaching, and, above all, by His Pascal Mystery, He brought His Church into being. He desired it to be a virgin, a bride, and a mother: a virgin, to keep the faith whole and entire; a bride, to be one with him forever, and a mother, to raise up the family of the Church.*”

Who was the first to live in total donation of her being to the Eternal Father, following these desires of His Divine Son? These are the always new mystical ways of love as we follow our Divine Spouse, Jesus Christ, and ask our Most Blessed Queen to teach each of us to be a virgin, a bride and a mother. Never hesitate to follow the Divine Spouse’s invitations to walk in His way and integrate body, soul, and spirit as our spiritual motherhood, living in our Blessed Mother’s maternal love as we raise up in prayer and through donation of our being and our doing, the family of the Church.

Our Most Blessed Mother was near the cross of Her Divine Son when the Roman soldier pierced with his sword the left side of Jesus Christ’s dead body. To contemplate in our prayer the image of Mary of Nazareth beneath the Cross illuminates for us the meaning of her spiritual maternity for the Church of her Divine Son. The spiritual maternity of the consecrated virgin finds in this contemplation a source of divine love. The Virgin of Nazareth is spouse of the Holy Spirit and when joined to her Son at the Cross she gave our spirituality a source of contemplation of the symbolic meaning of the Lord’s pierced Heart.

The blood and water flowing from the side of our Divine Lord Jesus Christ spiritually symbolize the birth of the

Something Ancient, Something New

Christian Church and the cleansing power of the holy sacraments. This moment, recorded in the Gospel of John (John 19:34), carries deep theological and spiritual meaning:

God created Eve from the rib of a sleeping Adam. In a similar spiritual way, the Church is born from the wounded side of Jesus as He "sleeps" in death on the cross. Christ's sacrifice opens a spiritual wellspring that creates and nurtures His new community of believers.

The water stands for baptism. It washes away spiritual impurity and brings a person into new life. The blood

stands for the Eucharist, or Holy Communion. It represents Christ's physical sacrifice and keeps believers in eternal communion with God. The pouring of blood represents the final payment for human sins, offering forgiveness and peace with God. The water signifies the renewing power of the Holy Spirit, which cleanses the human heart and imparts spiritual life.

The Blessed Virgin of Nazareth is Mother of the Church and so it is that we are called to be "a mother to raise up the family of the Church."

From the President's Journal

By Dr. Judith M. Stegman, JCD
Archdiocese of Miami (FL)

I'd like to add one happy news item to the many features in this issue of "The Lamp." The USACV and International Resource Center (IRC) for the *Ordo Virginum* was delighted to give permission to consecrated virgins in Slovakia to translate into Slovak the six essays in Volume One of the USACV's *Ordo Virginum* series. Consecrated virgin Alžbeta Šuplatová

led the effort in Slovakia; they began a year ago by translating and publishing the Vocation Tree article as a booklet, and this year, with the encouragement of a diocesan Bishop, published the remaining articles from Volume One in a book entitled *On the Vocation to Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World*. We are delighted to share the treasure of our vocation beyond our nation's borders!



By Florence Sundberg

Recently I saw a group of female legislators push to expand the legal right to terminate the lives of babies AFTER they were born. They smiled and the audience applauded. Imagine applauding the slaughter of innocent babies?! We protect wild life, endangered species even of plants, we protect animals, cats and dogs with great fervor but the lives of innocent babies in the womb- not so much. Ten states here in our own country have no limits on abortion. As Mother Teresa

predicted, there are some in the Medical Profession who are suggesting end of life terminations. Too many have remained silent as these slaughters were and are taking place. Where are the God chosen guardians of life? Why the silence? If we who are the spiritual mothers of Christ's children stay silent, then the slaughters will continue. We must cry out while innocent babies are being killed! Stop the killing!! Silence means consent.



artwork by Marion Biestek

*In Memory of Our Deceased Sister:
Joanne Rupar*

Consecrated virgin **Joanne Rupar** of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee (WI) passed to eternal life on May 30, 2026. Mass of Christian Burial for Joanne was celebrated on June 5 at Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Sheboygan. The obituary for Joanne recalls her many years serving as a high school teacher, singing in church choir and with the Sheboygan Symphony Chorus. It speaks of a virgin who enjoyed art, music, playing the organ, and cooking. Some consecrated virgins of Milwaukee were not aware of her death in time to attend her funeral Mass. They plan to offer Mass on November 28 for Joanne.

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

Consecrated virgins who celebrate significant anniversaries during 2026 are invited to submit an anniversary reflection for The Lamp. These anniversary reflections are popular among our readers as they convey a personal look at life lived as a bride of Christ in the Ordo virginum.

10 Years

Tara Stone

consecrated August 15, 2016

Diocese of Colorado Springs (CO)



8 Things I've Learned in 10 Years of Consecrated Virginity

1. Public consecration means public. I am naturally an introvert, but the Lord continually calls me out of my comfort zone—leading parish ministries, speaking on vocations panels, being the subject of a documentary—so that I can be a visible icon of the Church.
2. I identify viscerally with the Church. Whether it was the agony of having public Masses suspended during the pandemic, the elation of embracing a new Holy Father when Pope Leo XIV was elected, the grief of losing a father when our bishop was appointed to a different diocese, or the gratitude and wonder of welcoming souls into the family on Easter weekend—the Church's sorrow is my sorrow, her joy is my joy.
3. No season lasts forever. The Lord blessed the first years of my consecration with consolation, but one year I prayed Songs 1:4, "Draw me after you." He answered my prayer by drawing me into a spiritual desert—not the kind where he spoke tender words to me, but the kind where I had to do serious battle against the enemy and his temptations. Consolation passes. Dryness passes. Temptations pass. The Bridegroom's love does not.
4. He never leaves us without aid. In the midst of that spiritual desert, the Lord sent me two other consecrated virgins whose friendship sustained me in ways I only came to recognize in hindsight. Although we live this vocation individually, we should not hesitate to seek fellowship with other consecrated virgins. No one understands a consecrated virgin like another consecrated virgin. We need each other.
5. Just receive. Being His bride is not about what I do or how much I accomplish. He doesn't ask us to work harder to bear more fruit. He asks us to abide in Him and to allow Him to abide in us. The branch does nothing of itself. It simply receives from the vine.
6. Consecration set me aside for holiness; it did not magically make me holy. I'm embarrassed how many times I've had to relearn this lesson. But praise the Lord, His mercy endures forever. He already knew my weaknesses and sinfulness, and He chose me anyway. And every time I mess up, His mercy is there waiting to receive me again.
7. I am never lonely. Wherever I travel, my Spouse is already there waiting to welcome me in the nearest tabernacle. And I belong to every family in the Church, and they belong to me. The Lord wasn't joking when He said whoever gives up father and mother, etc., for His sake would receive a hundredfold in this life.
8. "My Beloved is mine, and I am His." The Prayer of Consecration is efficacious: He is my glory, my joy, my whole desire. He is my comfort in sorrow, my wisdom in perplexity, my protection in the midst of injustice, my patience in adversity, my riches in poverty, my food in fasting, my remedy in time of sickness. I have chosen Him above all things; I find all things in possessing Him.

5 Years

Angela McCormick

consecrated September 11, 2021

Diocese of Portland (ME)



On September 11, 2026, I celebrated my 5-year consecration anniversary to our Lord. This date was chosen by my bishop, and I do not believe in coincidences.

God orders or allows all things in our lives for our good and for the good of others. I believe that each time a virgin is consecrated to our Lord, then more light is brought into our spiritual world. It is a strong attack against the darkness of suffering, pain, death, and demonic forces, which we as a nation experienced on 9/11/2001. Our choice to live a life of consecration to our Lord with our virginity brings the light of purity of mind and body into a culture steeped with disordered sexuality and self-centered love. During my consecration 5 years ago, a close friend of mine experienced the suicide of her ex-husband at the same time as my consecration Mass began. Coincidence? I think not. The Mass for my consecration was being applied for his own soul just after he took his own life. As I basked in the elation of being Christ's Spouse, the next morning my friend told me of this horrible news, I was immediately thrown into suffering with my friend's grief. This has brought me so much closer to Mother Mary, who experienced both joy and unexpected sorrow with the presentation of her Son to God through the words of St. Simeon. It is not a coincidence that Sept. 11 is in the octave of Our Lady of Sorrows. These past 5 years have been a journey of trying to witness to the world, by my inner self and through actions and words, that we can choose a life of chastity, joy, purity, intimacy with God, and strongly believing that God is at work in the midst of sorrow and pain. Our witness is a life of being, as well as witnessing through actions and

words. I am looking forward to continuing to grow in closer union with the heart of my Spouse and seeing how He will use all consecrated virgins in the daily lives of others.



artwork by Marion Biestek

Consecration Announcements

July 16, 2026 — **Cheryl Davis**, at the hands of the Most Reverend Jeffrey Walsh, Bishop of Gaylord (MI).

July 18, 2026 — **Mary Tamburello**, at the hands of the Most Reverend James Golka, Archbishop of Denver (CO).

July 25, 2026 — **Katherine Lingenfelder**, at the hands of the Most Reverend Louis F. Kihneman III, Bishop of Biloxi (MS).



Katherine Lingenfelder



Mary Tamburello

Upcoming Consecrations

October 30, 2026 — Consecration of **Annie Stangler** and **Ashley Murr**, 5:00pm, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary in Duluth, Minnesota, at the hands of the Most Reverend Daniel Felton, Bishop of Duluth.

October 31, 2026 — Consecration of **Emily Ann Barnum** and **Rebecca Anne Siar**, 11:00am, at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois, at the hands of His Eminence Blasé Joseph Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago.

November 22, 2026 — Consecration of **Caroline Cole**, 3:00pm, at the Cathedral of Saint Matthew in South Bend, Indiana, at the hands of the Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

All are warmly invited to celebrate these consecrations in person!

Thanks be to God, 83 people registered for the 2026 Information Conference on the *Ordo virginum*, a three-day webinar held September 4 to 6. The registrants, from 63 different dioceses, included 76 from the United States and 7 from other countries: 2 consecrated virgins, 12 diocesan representatives, 32 aspirants or candidates for consecration, and 37 inquiring about the vocation for themselves.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who contributed to making the Information Conference possible. Although Bishop Earl Boyea (Bishop of Lansing and Episcopal Moderator for the USACV) was not able to be present “in person” this year, it felt like he was, as we were able to share his virtual presentation from a prior year on “Historical Aspects of the Consecration of Virgins, and Virgin Saints.” In addition, 12 United States consecrated virgins collaborated to offer presentations, participate in the Q&A sessions (over 100 questions were asked and answered), share personal testimonials, lead Vespers and offer music, and assist with technical aspects of the webinar. May our Divine Spouse reward each of you for your voluntary contributions to making our vocation better known and understood.

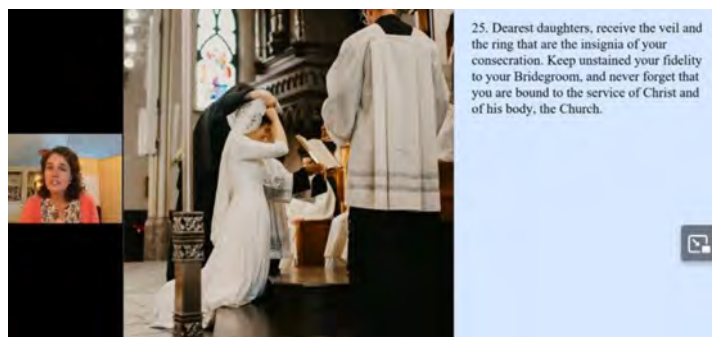
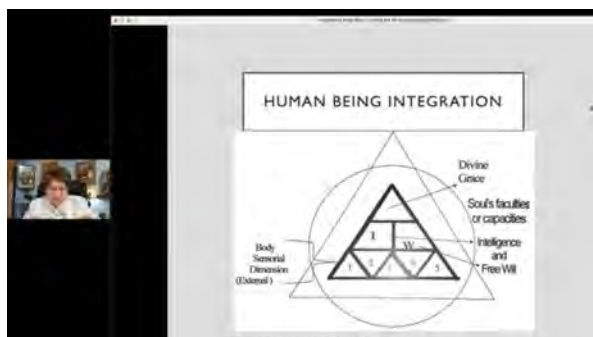
Topics presented during the conference were diverse: “Overview of Vocations in the Catholic Church, and Ecclesial Identification of the *Ordo virginum*”; “The Public Nature and Witness of the Consecrated Virgin”; “The Liturgy of the Hours and Prayer Life of the Consecrated Virgin”; “The Liturgical Rite of Consecration of Virgins: the Virgin’s Rule of Life”;

“Living in *saeculo* and in the Local Church”; “Mystically Espoused to Christ, the Son of God”; “Psychological Maturity for Living the Virginal Vocation”; and “Prerequisites for Admission to Consecration and Stages of Preparation for Admission to the *Ordo virginum*.”

A few comments from participants:

- "Honestly this conference has been such a blessing and I have finally seen clear that my vocation is the *Ordo Virginum*."
- "This conference has been a blessing. Thank you all for sharing your time, talent and treasure to help provide clarity and guidance to us as we discern our vocation. God bless and reward you all."
- "This has helped me so much in my discernment, and I have grown a lot closer to Christ these three days."
- from a diocesan delegate for consecrated life: "I cannot express enough my appreciation for this wonderful and in-depth online orientation workshop. This is my first year accompanying the women in our Archdiocese who desire to consecrate themselves to Christ, and your guidance has been invaluable. May God continue to deepen your love for Christ. Please keep our discerners and candidates in your prayers."

A link to recordings of the conference sessions will be made available to all registrants sometime in October. Let us keep in prayer all those discerning a vocation to consecrated life in the Church.



Announcements

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.

- **Monday, October 5, 2026**, 9:00pm ET, Memorial of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska, Virgin, Apostle of Divine Mercy
- **Wednesday, November 13, 2026**, 8:00pm ET, Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Virgin, first American citizen saint

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.

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.

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.

SERVING THE VOCATION OF CONSECRATED VIRGINITY

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2026 USACV Membership Drive

The United States Association of Consecrated Virgins (USACV) is a voluntary membership organization that exists for three ecclesial purposes:

- to serve as a vehicle of communication and fellowship among consecrated virgins in the United States;
- to provide materials and educational conferences about the vocation of consecrated virginity; and
- to promote study of the vocation, together with consecrated virgins throughout the world.

Those registered as members of the USACV receive regular updates through Monday Morning Mail, may offer their names as candidates for leadership roles and vote in annual elections, and are welcome to actively participate by prayer and / or the offering of time, talent, and treasure to the works of the Association. We ask \$40 annual dues, but any United States consecrated virgin may join the association, regardless of her ability to pay the annual dues.

Because membership in the association is voluntary, virgins must renew their membership each year. The most straightforward way to renew membership is online. Thanks to the many of you who have already registered for 2026 membership. If you still need to do so, here is the link:

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/UnitedStatesAssnofConsebra/member2026reg-1-1-1.html>



The USACV is one of two sections of the USACV and International Resource Center for the *Ordo Virginum*, a Michigan not-for-profit corporation. The International Resource Center (IRC) section of the organization serves as a resource for this vocation internationally—primarily, currently, to English-speaking countries, but also, as possible, in Spanish. The IRC section has no official members, but encourages and welcomes participation from consecrated virgins throughout the world. To show interest in participating, use the above form to register as a “Friend” of the USACV or send an email expressing interest to info@consecratedvirgins.org.

Volume III of the Ordo Virginum series



Mary's Virgin Daughters, Brides of Christ: Yesterday, Today, and for Eternity



Use QR code for more information
and to place an order
secure.consecratedvirgins.org

PRE-ORDER NOW!
300-pages, \$20

Written about virgin saints, by consecrated virgins of today, this is the long-awaited third volume of the USACV's series: *Ordo Virginum: The Restoration of the Ancient Order of Virgins in the Catholic Church*.

Three essays on the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Virgins, written by Bishop Earl Boyea, Dr. Shalina Stilley, and Dr. Magalis Aguilera.

A unique collection of 18 essays written by consecrated virgins of today, about virgin saints who were not part of other religious communities, but who lived as the consecrated virgins of apostolic times, and of today—virgins for our Lord Jesus.

The United States Association of Consecrated Virgins is pleased to announce the 2026-2027 season of its Candidate Discussion Group. The Candidate Discussion Group (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, and
 - They have previously attended the USACV Information Conference
- Diocesan delegates for the *Ordo virginum*
- Consecrated virgins



Registration

Information and online registration is available [here](https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/UnitedStatesAssnofConsecra/registrationOVCandidateDiscussionGroup2026-2027.html) (<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/UnitedStatesAssnofConsecra/registrationOVCandidateDiscussionGroup2026-2027.html>). There is no cost to register. Please direct questions to consecrated virgin CDG coordinator Leandra Hubka, at info@consecratedvirgins.org.

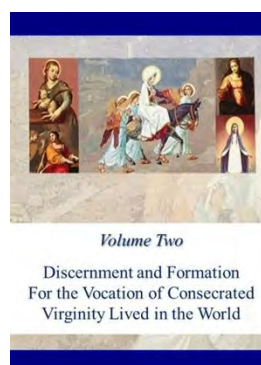
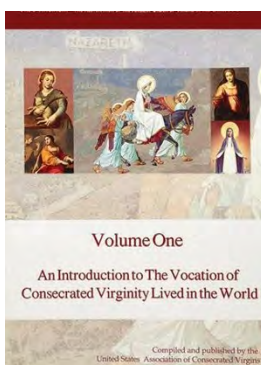
2026-2027 Season Dates and Topics

November 9, 2026: “Living the Evangelical Counsels as a Consecrated Virgin *In Saeculo*,” presented by **Leandra Hubka**

February 1, 2027: “The Consecrated Virgin as a Public Person and Countercultural Witness in Today's Society: Commissioned to be the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World,” presented by **Senite Sahlezghi**

May 24, 2027: “Suffering with Our Spouse: Drawing Closer to God in times of Trial and Illness,” presented by **Karen Paschke**

August 2, 2027: “Examining the Rite of Consecration and What It Teaches Us About Our Vocation,” presented by **Dr. Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D.**



About the Presenters:

Leandra Hubka: Leandra Hubka is a consecrated virgin of the Diocese of Winona-Rochester in Minnesota, where she serves as the secretary to her bishop. Consecrated in 2018, she regularly speaks on consecrated virginity and vocations, in addition to other religious topics. Leandra graduated from the University of St. Thomas (MN), where she majored in Catholic Studies and Music, and she also has a masters degree in Music Performance. In addition to her diocesan work and vocations ministry, Leandra is also active at her parish, where she currently cantors and teaches baptism preparation classes.

Senite Sahlezghi: Senite Sahlezghi is a consecrated virgin for the Archdiocese of Denver. Native to Colorado, she is a first generation Eritrean American, is a Licensed Professional Counselor with a master's in Counseling Psychology, and serves as the School Counselor for St. John Paul the Great Catholic High School. Grateful to be in a place surrounded by mountains and live music, the greatest privilege of her life remains being called to be Christ's bride.

Karen Paschke: After being raised Lutheran, followed by a “dumb lost sheep period,” Karen Paschke entered the Catholic Church in 2010 in Madison, Wisconsin. She worked with RCIA for many years and through a conversation with the RCIA director learned of consecrated virginity. She was consecrated by Bishop Morlino on February 11, 2017. On February 27, she was suddenly hospitalized with an aggressive form of lymphoma. (It's gone now, happy ending.) Karen is in her 30th year of teaching mathematics in a public high school. She also plays handbells in a community choir and enjoys traveling in the summers.

Dr. Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D.: was born in Cuba and came to the United States in 1968. After learning about the *Ordo Virginum* while living in Spain in 1970, she was consecrated on February 22, 1986, by the Cardinal Archbishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico. She moved to the Archdiocese of Miami in 1991 and was involved in the initial formation of the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins. Dr. Aguilera has a doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology, and she is a clinical psychologist who provides services to children, adolescents, and their parents. She continues to serve the USACV with information conferences, articles, reflections, and books. Her virginal consecration is the most profound gift she has received from the Eternal Father because it is a gift that lasts forever.

“Virginal Love for the Bridegroom”

Convocation Report, taken from words of **Elma Espinoza**, Diocese of Fresno (CA), and **Mary Beth Bracy**, Diocese of Ogdensburg (NY)

Mary Beth: The 2026 United States Convocation of Consecrated Virgins, sponsored by the USACV, was held from June 19 – 23 in Green Bay, Wisconsin at the Norbertine Center for Spirituality. This year’s theme was “Virginal Love for the Bridegroom.” There were 42 attendants in person and 20 who participated via livestream. Attendants were from 35 dioceses and included 11 candidates who are preparing for their consecration. Half of the participants were consecrated for more than 5 years.

Each day of the convocation, Father David Whiteside, a priest of the diocese of Peoria, Illinois and chaplain for the consecrated virgins, offered talks or homilies on the humanity of Christ, including His Sacred Heart, Holy Face, Precious Blood, and Soul. He reflected: “Jesus is inviting all of us to a deeper virginal love for Him . . . not an emotional love but one that makes acts of love for Him.”

Bishop Earl A. Boyea, of the diocese of Lansing, Michigan and episcopal moderator for the USACV, offered Holy Mass and talks on the history of virginity on Sunday, focusing on the writings of the Fathers of the Church. He noted that from the beginning, virginity was an “accepted and celebrated call (in Christ and Mary).” To go against the Genesis call, to be fruitful and multiply, he noted, “would require a great deal of courage and grace.”

Consecrated virgins also presented reflections throughout the convocation: Claire Halbur (of the diocese of Phoenix) on “The Public Witness of the Vocation,” Eileen Belongea (diocese of Milwaukee) on “For the Bridegroom,” Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D. (diocese of Miami) on “The Root of the Virginal

Vocation,” and Judith Stegman, J.C.D. (diocese of Miami) on “The Ecclesial Tradition of Virginal Love for Christ the Bridegroom, in Law and Liturgy.”

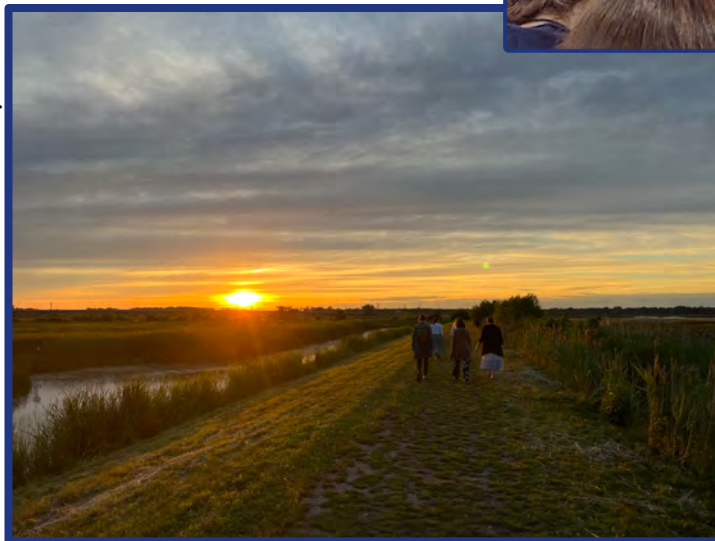
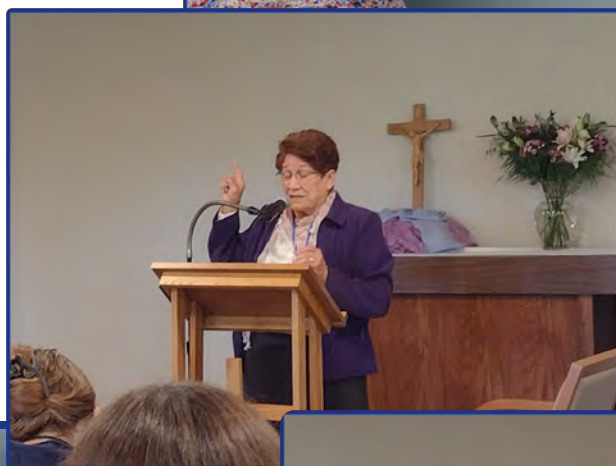
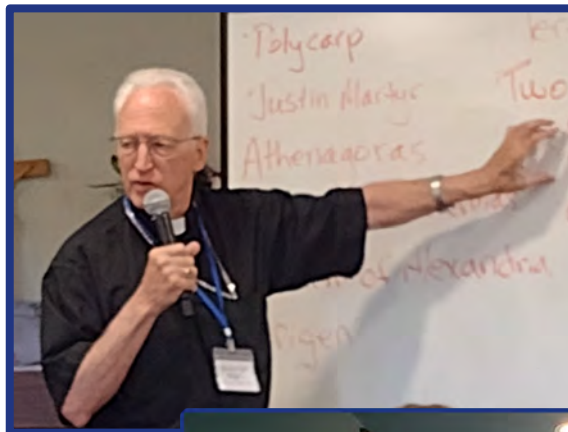
Elma: On Saturday, we made a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of St. Joseph in De Pere, Wisconsin, where we had the opportunity to participate in Eucharistic Adoration, attend Mass, and tour the shrine. The shrine houses one of only 17 crowned statues of St. Joseph in the world approved by papal decree, and it is the only one in the United States. Attendees were also able to leave prayer intentions near the statue of St. Joseph.

On Sunday, a special dinner was held in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the USACV. During the evening, attendees enjoyed a brief historical presentation on the association’s founding, followed by a slideshow featuring past convocations or events. Afterwards, a few of us visited a wildlife sanctuary, where we took in the breathtaking view of the sunset while walking near the bay. That evening offered many beautiful photo opportunities, along with spontaneous singing in honor of Our Lady.

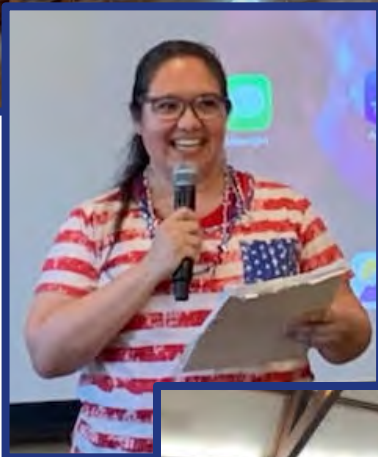
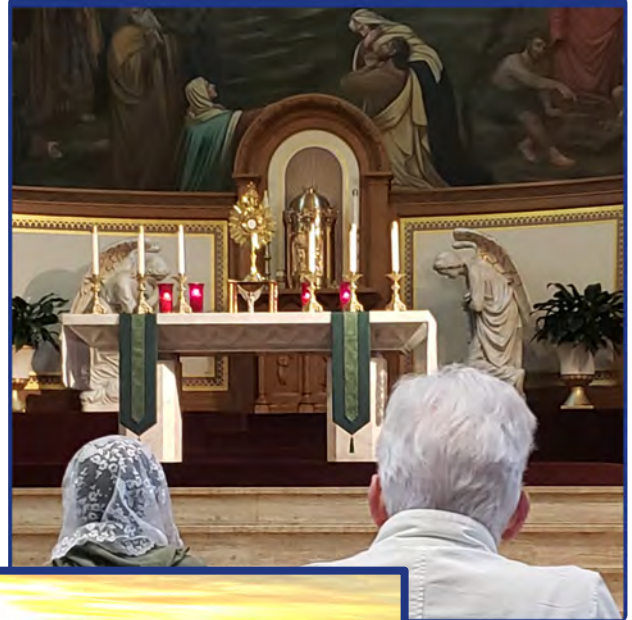
On Monday, we went on a pilgrimage to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, Wisconsin, the only Marian apparition site in the United States officially approved by the Church. The shrine preserves the sacred place where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Adele Brise in 1859, now honored in an oratory filled with candles, relics, and flowers. As one descends steps into the oratory, there is a powerful sense of entering a holy place of prayer, where heaven meets earth and where love not only dwells, but gives of Himself constantly. The shrine has been the source of many graces, healings, and miracles, including the remarkable preservation of its chapel grounds and buildings during the Great Peshtigo Fire of 1871, the deadliest fire in United States history.

That evening, we gathered for a talent show and individual anniversary recognitions. The talent show featured many gifted participants who played instruments, recited poems, sang, danced, and shared stories. I also participated with my group, dancing and lipsyncing to a patriotic medley in honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States of America. It was a joy to witness such talent. (Mary Beth adds that she was also part of the patriotic music group, and that “other performances included beautiful music from The Hobbit to hymns, poetry, and amusing stories.”) Yet the evening still held more surprises from our Lord. After the talent show, Fr. David blessed each of us with the holy oil of St. Charbel Makhoul after we had prayed for our personal intentions. Then we each shared a special moment we had experienced so far during the convocation.

On Tuesday, the convocation officially ended, but a few of us remained in Wisconsin to see what else the Lord had in store for us during our extended stay. We had the opportunity to visit and pray at several inspirational places, including a Carmelite Monastery and the Curran Spirituality Center in Denmark, Wisconsin. We also toured the Peshtigo Fire Museum and a Wisconsin Way Pilgrimage Albergue, where we had the privilege of attending Mass celebrated by Fr. Andrew Kurz. Along the way, we also visited other spiritual landmarks, churches, and cemeteries. And of course, we could not leave Wisconsin without stopping at a local cheese factory and enjoying a meal at a local restaurant.



2026 Convocation



2026 Convocation



Personal Reflections on the Convocation:

Mary Beth Bracy, Diocese of Ogdensburg (NY):

Whether spending quiet moments in prayer before our Eucharistic Lord together late at night or early in the morning or walking with each other on the breathtaking abbey grounds and sharing challenges and joys, the convocation was truly an opportunity to grow in love with our Bridegroom. In the words of Father Whiteside, when one gazes upon the Holy Face of Jesus, He is gazing back at us. Consecrated virgins “take great delight in gazing on the Face of their Divine Spouse everyday and in doing so you will grow in your virginal love for Him.”

Elma Espinoza, Diocese of Fresno (CA):

The convocation is always a grace-filled opportunity to come together in prayer, fellowship, and spiritual renewal. Each day, we attend Mass and chanted Lauds and Vespers, while also having many moments for personal Eucharistic Adoration and quiet prayer. We shared meals together and enjoyed many opportunities to build friendships—whether by going for walks, making an ice cream run, rescuing animals, sharing personal life experiences, practicing for the talent show, helping one another, or lifting up prayer intentions for our dioceses, clergy, married couples, loved ones or particular needs. These and so many other edifying

moments reflected Christ’s love among us and deepened our virginal love for Christ, our Bridegroom.



Anne Gishpert, Diocese of Pueblo (CO):

I truly enjoyed every moment of the convocation at the DePere Norbertine Abbey. Although I hardly slept, I loved my room as it was very comfortable and perfect for me!

Fr. David's talks on growing in virginal love through meditating on the humanity of Jesus will keep me more focused in my morning meditations and throughout the day. I was able to take some really good notes but will look forward to reading in full his talks in upcoming issues of *The Lamp*. I can't write as much as I'd like because there is so much. . .

therefore I will only write a little bit on each point. His Sacred Humanity keeps us on the right path to holiness. His Sacred Humanity leads us to union to His Divine nature. It is a bridge to the divine. His Most Sacred Heart: spousal love—union of hearts / spousal love is not divided in love for Christ. It is total undivided love for the Bridegroom, for where your treasure is, there will be your heart and my Treasure is Jesus! I also hadn't realized until Fr. David's talk that there were two virgins before St. Gertrude that Jesus revealed His Sacred Heart to. (I did know about St. Mechthild).

His Most Holy Face: Jesus' Face is transparent into His Sacred Heart-Divine Presence. I am happy to know more about the history behind the devotion of His Holy

Face. I only knew that St. Therese had taken it as part of her religious name. I also never connected the Golden Arrow prayer to this devotion and the reasons why it became such a much-needed devotion in the 19th century to the present day. I now have a new perception on this beautiful devotion as a spouse to my Bridegroom's Beautiful, Sorrowing, Holy Face.

His Most Precious Blood: About 35 years ago I had been given as a penance in confession to pray the Litany of the Precious Blood of Jesus. I had never heard of it before and it took me 3 days to find the litany! I have prayed it daily during the month of the Precious Blood (July) ever since, but beyond that, not much of a devotion. Fr. David has changed that for me! I have prayed the Anima Christi daily after holy communion since my college days (over 40 years!)

To think / pray deeply on the Blood of Christ-inebriate me, is beautiful and very meaningful to me. He poured out His Blood for ME! I receive HIS Blood in holy communion. His Blood is the LIFE of my soul and gives me the grace to be willing to die for the Beloved.

Bishop Boyea's talk on the early church fathers was super! They have been my favorites since my dad introduced them to me while I was in college. And I never tire of hearing or rereading about them!

Claire and Eileen's talks on the Rite of Consecration and virginal love going back to the Garden were inspiring and beautiful. Judith and Magalis' talks were also beautiful and I am glad that what Magalis actually spoke about is in The Lamp so I may take my time as I read it.

A super big Thank You to Eileen and all the hard work she put into the convocation. Everything flowed beautifully; the Shrine of St. Joseph, Masses, Our Lady of Champion,

restaurant to celebrate 30 years, etc. I gained 2 pounds by eating at the Abbey! Thank you to Magalis for recording everything and Judith for opening up the talks to other virgins who couldn't make the trip to WI. God bless each and every person who made this convocation so special to me. I love and pray for each one!

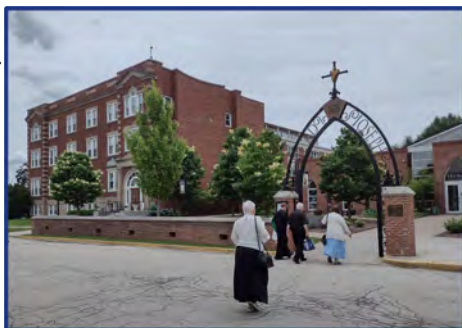
Claire Halbur, Diocese of Phoenix (AZ):

Convocation 2026 was a joyful time of fellowship at the Norbertine Retreat Center in De Pere, WI. A record number of 40+ virgins from 28 Dioceses focusing on the central theme of Virginal Love for the Bridegroom and celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the USACV. Fr. David Whiteside, who has been coming for 7 or so years

to serve as our Convocation chaplain, gave tender reflections on the sacred humanity of Christ in his Sacred Heart, Holy Face, and Precious Blood. Bishop Boyea—ever the historian—dove into the topic of virginity in early church writings, and presentations from

consecrated virgins highlighted the public witness of this vocation and the meaning of virginal love in spirituality, ecclesial tradition, and the lived expression of this call. Highlights for many attendees were visits to the National Shrine of St. Joseph and the Shrine of Our Lady of Champion. As always, we cherished the opportunity to chant Lauds and Vespers together, along with daily Mass and adoration. Our Sunday evening anniversary dinner was an opportunity for founding and

longtime members of the Association to share memories of its inception alongside a photo slideshow.



Lorraine Manlolo, Diocese of Honolulu (HI):

It is always a great joy to gather together for fellowship at the convocation for consecrated virgins. I have been praying that we would have our convocation near Our Lady of Champion as I have visited many Marian apparition sites in Europe, and I am so thankful that we were able to have Mass there this year! An added bonus was our visit to the National Shrine of St Joseph, and the wonderful reflections on the humanity of Jesus! I treasure our bond as consecrated virgins, and keep you all in prayer!

Maria Arifa Habib, Diocese of Madison (WI):

God is so good! I feel like a particularly favored child. The Lord has shown me so much favor & so much kindness, especially through others in my life! I am so grateful!

I was consecrated at the Solemnity of the Epiphany this year, and I am slowly entering into the mystery of

being chosen to be a Bride of "Him whom the angels serve." It is good to be with one's sisters in Christ, and learn from them and their experience of His infinite love! So I felt particularly blessed that this year the convocation was held in my home

state of Wisconsin and near the National Shrine of Our Lady of Champion, which is such a grace-filled place to visit!

It was such a blessing to be there! To pray together, to make friends, to hear stories, to share meals, silly moments and solemn moments. It was a privilege to meet those who began the Association and to listen to the story of its founding and early days. What a gift their service has been to those of us who have come after them!

It was particularly beautiful to enter into and meditate on the Sacred Humanity of the Lord through the votive Masses and Fr. David's talks. Binding together the experience of the Sacred Humanity of the Lord through the Mass and the theology of His Sacred Humanity through the talks proved particularly fruitful for me. On a side note, there was something subtly different in the talks given by the Consecrated Virgins and Bishop Boyea and Fr David. A reflection, no doubt, of the fact that virgins and priests experience the love of the Lord differently! Sensing that distinction was particularly joyful for me.

Chanting Lauds and Vespers together was a particular source of joy! Claire is particularly gifted at helping everyone, including those of us who are not



trained musicians, to 'make a joyful sound to the Lord!!
For that I am grateful.

Altogether, it was a grace filled time! And I am deeply grateful! To the Lord and to my sisters in Christ who made it happen.



Michaela Andrews, Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (MN):

Although from all across the country and different backgrounds, our shared spousal relationship with Jesus brought about a delightful unity. It was beautiful to witness how intentionally God loves each of the women there, their love for Him, and how that love is reflected into the lives of others. Fr. David's thoughtful talks on the sacred humanity of Christ resonated with the Carmelite in me. Each of the women there were such kind guests to my soul who left it a better place than they found it as we conversed about our lived experience of the Lord's call to be His bride.



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*).

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

Julie Radachy 2026-2028; Diocese of Knoxville (TN). (*Website Team Co-Leader*).

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 2026-2032; 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 Malolas
One Unfilled Position

Other USACV-IRC Services, among others

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

Claire Halbur and Julie Radachy; co-chairs, Website Development Team.

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.

At our 2026 convocation, Father David Whiteside offered reflections on the Sacred Humanity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in light of our convocation theme, “Virginal Love for the Bridegroom.” We are most grateful to Father David for offering to share these reflections in *The Lamp*, and we begin in this issue with his first homily.

At last year’s convocation I focused my reflections on St. Teresa’s work *The Interior Castle* and the development of interior prayer via the seven mansions. I would like to begin my reflections at this year’s convocation with a quote from chapter seven in St. Teresa’s section on the sixth mansions: “It would seem to you that anyone who enjoys such lofty things [infused prayer] will no longer meditate on the mysteries of the most Sacred Humanity of Our Lord Jesus Christ . . . [But] it is necessary not to withdraw through one’s own efforts from all our good and help which is the most Sacred Humanity of Our Lord Jesus Christ. I cannot believe that these souls do so, but they just don’t understand; and they will do harm to themselves and to others . . . For if they lose the guide, who is the good Jesus, they will not hit upon the right road . . . Since we know the path by which we must please God, which is that of the commandments and counsels, we should follow it very diligently and think of His life and death and of the many things we owe Him . . . It is fitting for souls, however spiritual, to take care not to flee from corporal things to the extent of thinking that even the most Sacred Humanity causes harm.”

St. Teresa is telling us that after experiencing lofty infused prayer and contemplation, one may experience the temptation to leave behind basic meditation and mental prayer, meditation on our Lord’s Sacred Humanity, that is, on His life, His words, His actions, His passion, death and resurrection, and simply focus

on Jesus’ Divinity or the incorporeal Trinity, thinking we are now beyond basic meditation and mental prayer. But we must not give into this temptation and continue to meditate on our Lord’s most Sacred Humanity. Why? Because, as St. Teresa points out, the example of His Sacred Humanity always before our eyes will keep us on the right path in virtue and in holiness. It is our Lord’s human nature that will lead us to union with His divine nature. His human nature is the doorway and bridge to His divine nature and the Holy Trinity.

A little Christology.... Jesus has two natures, a human nature and a divine nature. His human nature is comprised of a human body and a human soul, which animates His human body. His human soul is comprised with a human intellect, a human memory, and a human will (like ours). Jesus’ human nature (body and soul) is united to a divine nature (a divine intellect and a divine will). These two natures (human and divine) work in harmony with each other in a most intimate union while remaining distinct. In theology, we call it the Hypostatic Union. We say that Jesus is one person, a Divine Person, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, hypostatically united to a human nature. He is the Eternal Word made flesh.

Since Jesus is one Person, a Divine Person, the Eternal Son, hypostatically united to a human nature, then the human nature of Christ (in addition to His divinity) is worthy of adoration and worship including the individual parts of His human, nature, for example: His Sacred Heart, His Holy Face, His Precious Blood, His Sacred Soul and so on..... When these aspects of His Sacred Humanity are adored and worshipped, they draw us in love (in virginal love) to a deeper love for the Divine Bridegroom and through His humanity to union with His divinity and the Holy Trinity.

I would like to share a quote from Bishop John Hedley (1837-1915), a British Benedictine who was bishop of

the Diocese of Newport, England and was also a professor of philosophy and theology and a writer and an editor. “It is a deep mistake to suppose that the best progress [in the spiritual life] is made by efforts to acquire virtues and root out vices. Such efforts must be made; but there is another and better way (which at the same time does not dispense us from making efforts). That other way is the contemplative union of our intelligence, will and heart with the Sacred Humanity of Jesus Christ. For that Sacred Humanity has a most powerful and almost miraculous efficacy of transformation. An hour, or half an hour of devout contemplation of His obedience, His patience, His humility, His love of suffering will change our poor natures for the better more effectively than many days of striving to practice these virtues, were such practice unaccompanied by the contemplation here described. . . Thus, the saints have found, in prayer before the Sacred Humanity, their book, their lesson, their mirror, their transformation.”



Bishop Hedley is telling us that we can strive through great effort to grow in virtue, (to grow in virginal love). But if we combine this effort with daily meditation on the Sacred Humanity of Christ, we will experience transformation more deeply and in a shorter period of time, and through it, obtain a much deeper, total, undivided love for the Divine Bridegroom.

Mirror of Justice

A Sestina for the Queen Mother

Madeleine Trophe

I have never seen my true reflection –
only crawled over parched ground, scrabbling in sin-cursed dirt
for shards of my first mother’s mirror, long broken.
In my clumsy efforts to wipe the fragments clean,
I slicked my fingers with bright blood.
It cries from the earth for a Savior; I have grown too dry for tears.

My little girl, I give you my tears.

Look, discover your perfect reflection:

*beyond price, bought with the precious Blood
of God Himself, poured upon the dirt
to proclaim your salvation. I watched Him die to make you clean,
to piece together what was broken.*

O Lady, how profoundly my heart was broken,
before I knew you! I am undone by the beauty of your tears.
In the light of your eyes I appear clean,
without shame to twist and obscure my reflection.
Late have I loved you – years wasted in the dirt –
I should have been wrapped in your arms, beneath this tide of
saving Blood!

My daughter, you were born to me through blood.

*Your pain was etched in my Son’s Body, broken,
in His bruised face streaked with sweat and dirt.*

*Yet there was a sweetness in my tears,
for I saw recognition dawning in your eyes, the first reflection
of my love for you – and your love was like snow – so new and
clean.*

But how can you say I am clean?

My hands are still wet with your Son’s blood.

Yet you call me *daughter*; you would make me a reflection
of your maternal love. My defenses are an alabaster jar, broken;
perfume mingles with the torrent of my tears.
Even in death, His cold fingers write mercy in the dirt.

*Yes, God’s finger has traced His saving Cross in the dirt
upon your forehead. It shines forth, pure and clean.*

My daughter, you are worth the cost of my tears.

*Lay your scarlet hands, sticky with His Blood,
upon the chains that bind you. They will be broken,
and in your wounds you’ll discover His glory’s reflection.*

O Truest Mother, make my love like yours — beauty magnified by
dirt and blood,
forever clean-hearted, undaunted by pain. My fear-chains are
broken —
make me shine like your tears; let me be in this world your radiant
reflection.

Upcoming Events

September 8, 2026 Publication of *The Lamp* for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

October 5, 2026 8:00pm ET. Virtual Vespers for the Memorial of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska. *See page 10 for more information.*

October 30, 2026 Consecration of Annie Stangler and Ashley Murr, 5:00pm, at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary in Duluth, Minnesota, at the hands of the Most Reverend Daniel Felton, Bishop of Duluth.

October 31, 2026 Consecration of Emily Ann Barnum and Rebecca Anne Siar, 11:00am, at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, Illinois, at the hands of His Eminence Blasé Joseph Cardinal Cupich, Archbishop of Chicago.

November 9, 2026 *Ordo Virginum* Virtual Candidate Discussion Group, 6:30pm MT (8:30pm ET), "Living the Evangelical Counsels as a Consecrated Virgin *In Saeculo*," presented by Leandra Hubka. *See page 12 for more information.*

November 13, 2026 8:00pm ET. Virtual Vespers for the Memorial of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. *See page 10 for more information.*

November 22, 2026 Consecration of Caroline Cole, 3:00pm, at the Cathedral of St. Matthew, South Bend, Indiana, at the hands of the Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

November 29, 2026, USACV Leadership Team Virtual Meeting, 5:00pm ET. USACV members are welcome to offer suggestions for our meeting agenda.

December 12, 2026 Publication of *The Lamp* for Our Lady of Guadalupe

February 1, 2027 *Ordo Virginum* Virtual Candidate Discussion Group, 6:30pm MT (8:30pm ET), "The Consecrated Virgin as a Public Person and Countercultural Witness in Today's Society: Commissioned to be the Salt of the Earth and the Light of the World," presented by Senite Sahlezghi. *See page 12 for more information.*

February 2, 2027 Publication of *The Lamp* for the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life and the Presentation of the Lord

May 24, 2027 *Ordo Virginum* Virtual Candidate Discussion Group, 6:30pm MT (8:30pm ET), "Suffering with Our Spouse: Drawing Closer to God in times of Trial and Illness," presented by Karen Paschke. *See page 12 for more information.*

May 31, 2027 Publication of *The Lamp* for the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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

August 2, 2027 *Ordo Virginum* Virtual Candidate Discussion Group, 6:30pm MT (8:30pm ET), "Examining the Rite of Consecration and What It Teaches Us About Our Vocation," presented by Dr. Magalis Aguilera, Psy.D. *See page 12 for more information.*

September 8, 2027 Publication of *The Lamp* for the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary