

# The Mountaineer

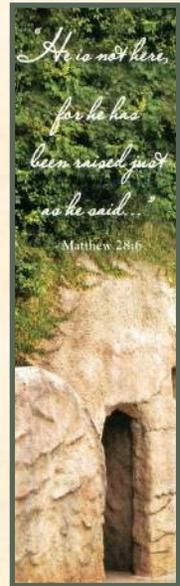
"JOY OF THE GOSPEL"

"WAKE UP THE WORLD!"



## Alleluia

"... Lord,  
by your Cross  
and Resurrection  
you have set us free"



May the light of the risen Christ  
be your everlasting joy.

Wishing you a Blessed Easter!

*Suzanne Caron*  
President

*A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated in my parish  
for all of you and your intentions, God bless you all.*

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## “Year of Consecrated Life”

*A working message from our President to Sr Miriam Fidelis, a Religious Sister of Mercy, Alma, MI, who is working on a paper entitled: “Year of Consecrated Life: Year in Review” for the World Meeting of Families: Sr. Miriam*

Thank you for the invitation to participate in answering questions on the subject of “The Year of Consecrated Life.”

Last weekend, at all the Masses in my parish, a letter from our local Bishop was read highlighting “The Year of Consecrated Life.” His message was very encouraging and affirming. He said: “To you who live a consecrated life, your joy is infectious and continually renews the Church with hope. Our diocese is blessed with your presence.” He invites us to celebrate the richness of our vocation from now until February 2, 2016, and to let the diocesan communication office know how we will celebrate and when. This information will then be communicated to the faithful of the diocese “to keep before their eyes the focus of this year.” During this year, the diocese will also be sponsoring events.

Our Bishop closed his letter by echoing the words of Pope Francis: “The Church Needs You.”

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As President of the United States Conference of Secular Institutes, I share with you Pope Francis address to Secular Institutes in Italy. I am also attaching the article which appeared in the February issue of “Our Sunday Visitor” highlighting the different forms of Consecrated Life. Under “Secular Institutes” there are two interviews with members of Secular Institutes: Claudette Cyr, a member of the Secular Institute, the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate and Anita Plourde, President of the OMMI’s.

I hope that these two articles will give you an insight of who we are in the Church as consecrated seculars.

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Members from various secular institutes were present at the LA Religious Ed Congress in Los Angeles last weekend where they distributed 300 brochures giving information about a secular consecration.

As you can see, much is being done to promote a vocation to Consecrated Life. I grade these initiatives as definitely positive.

After our annual meeting of USCSI in September, members of Secular Institutes will attend the “World Meeting of Families—2015.”

Again thank you for the opportunity to participate in your survey.

Beatrice T. Caron, OMMI  
President of USCSI  
March 20, 2015

### **Pope Francis to Secular Institutes: You Are Revolutionary!**

*Vatican Radio, May 10, 2014:* Pope Francis has told the men and women of Italy’s Secular Institutes that their establishment was a revolutionary and courageous act that revealed how his predecessor Pius XII knew how to read the signs of the times.

Handing his prepared text to the 200 consecrated lay men and women present, the Pope preferred to speak to them from the heart. He began by describing Pius XII’ apostolic constitution *Provida Mater Ecclesia* as an act of courage that the Church of the time needed. It institutionalized the reality of communities of lay consecrated men and women, and since then – the Pope said – “you have done great good for the Church, with great courage because we need courage to live in this world.”

“Many of you – he noted – live alone or in community, you come and go. You live everyday life in the

world, but at the same time custody this contemplative dimension; contemplation of the Lord and the world; the reality and beauty of the world; the great sins of society, its deviations, all of these things...”

“This is why your vocation is fascinating – Pope Francis continued – because it takes place right there, where the salvation of man is played out and not just of man but of the institutions also, no?” “May you always safeguard this attitude, to go beyond things...and not just beyond... but to the very heart of things, where everything is played out: politics, economy, education, family ... there! ...Don’t be tempted to think...but what can I do? Remember the Lord spoke to us about the grain of wheat, eh! Your life is like the grain ... wherever you are, do everything you can for the Kingdom to come. A simple life, a simple Gesture. but be yeast, be the grain which makes [the Kingdom] grow. Thank you so much for what you do in the Church; thank you so much for your prayers and actions. Thank you for the hope and do not forget, eh!: Be revolutionary!”

**Below please find a Vatican Radio translation of the Holy Father’s prepared text:**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I welcome you on the occasion of your Assembly and greet you by saying: I know and I appreciate your vocation! It is one of the newer forms of consecrated life recognized and approved by the Church, and perhaps one that is not yet fully understood. Do not be discouraged: you are part of that poor and outward reaching Church that dreams!

By vocation you are laity and priests like others in the midst of others, you lead an ordinary life, without outward signs, without the support of a community life, without the visibility of an organized apostolate or specific works. Your only wealth is the all-encompassing experience of love of God and for this you are able to know and share life’s trials in their many forms, maturing them with the light and power of the Gospel.

You are a sign of the Church in dialogue spoken of by Paul VI in the Encyclical *Ecclesiam suam*: "Since the world cannot be saved from the outside, we must first of all identify ourselves with those to whom we would bring the Christian message-like the Word of God who Himself became a man. Next we must forego all privilege and the use of unintelligible language, and adopt the way of life of ordinary people in all that is human and honorable. Indeed, we must adopt the way of life of the most humble people, if we wish to be listened to and understood. Then, before speaking, we must take great care to listen not only to what men say, but more especially to what they have in their hearts to say. Only then will we understand them and respect them, and even, as far as possible, agree with them. Furthermore, if we want to be men's pastors, fathers, and teachers, we must also behave as their brothers. Dialogue thrives on friendship, and most especially on service. All this we must remember and strive to put into practice on the example and precept of Christ"(n.87). The theme of your Assembly, "At the heart of human events: the challenges of a complex society," points to the scope of your mission and your prophecy. You are in the world but not of the world, carrying within you the essentials of the Christian message: the Father's love that saves. **You are in the heart of the world with the heart of God.**

Your vocation makes you interested in every individual and his or her deepest issues that often remain unspoken or masked. By virtue of the love of God that you have encountered and known, you are capable of closeness and tenderness. So you can be so close as to touch others, their wounds and expectations, their questions and needs, with a tenderness that is an expression of care that erases all distance. Like the Samaritan who walked by and saw and had compassion. This is the movement to which you have committed your vocation: to journey alongside each person and be close to every person you meet; because your being in the world is not simply a sociological condition, but it is a theological reality that calls you to be aware, to care for, recognize, see, and touch the flesh of your brethren.

If this does not happen if you become distracted, or worse still, do not know this contemporary world but know and visit only the world that you are more comfortable with or more drawn to, then conversion is urgently needed! Yours is an outward reaching vocation by nature, not only because it brings you to others, but also because it asks you to live where every man lives.

Italy is the country with the largest number of secular institutes and members. You are a yeast that can produce good bread for many, the bread of which there is so much hunger: someone to listen to people's needs, desires, disappointments, hopes. Like those who have preceded you in your vocation, you can restore hope to young people, help the elderly, open roads to the future, and spread love in every place and in every situation. If this does not happen, if your ordinary life lacks witness and prophecy, then, I repeat to you, there is an urgent need for conversion!

Never lose the momentum of walking the streets of the world, aware that walking, even with an uncertain step or limping, is always better than standing still, locked within your questions or securities. The missionary passion, the joy of Christ that urges you to share with others the beauty of faith, reduces the risk of becoming stuck in individualism. The line of thought that proposes man as creator of himself, guided only by his own choices and desires, often vested in the seemingly beautiful garment of freedom and respect, threatens to undermine the foundations of consecrated life, especially of lay people. There is an urgent need to re-evaluate your sense of belonging to your vocational community which, precisely because it is founded on community life, finds its strengths in its charisma. For this reason, if each of you are a precious opportunity for others to meet with God, it is about rediscovering the responsibility of being prophecy as a community, to seek together, with humility and patience, a word of sense that can be a gift for the country and for the Church, and to bear witness to it with simplicity. You are like antennas ready to seize the seeds of innovation prompted by the Holy Spirit, and you can help the ecclesial community to take on this gaze of goodness and find new and bold ways to reach all peoples.

Poor among the poor, but with a burning heart. Never still, always on the move. Together [in community] and sent out [into the world], even when you are alone, because your consecration makes you a living spark of the Church. Always on the road with the virtue that is of pilgrims: joy!

Thank you, dear friends, for what you are. May the Lord bless you and Mary keep you. And pray for me! *Pope Francis*

Michelle Martin wrote an article for *Our Sunday Visitor*, February 1, 2015, about Consecrated Life. Here is part five dealing with Secular Institutes:

## Secular Institutes

While religious men and women are usually easily identified, people might not ever know if they meet a member of a secular institute.

"It's not a secret," said Claudette Cyr, a member of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate for 58 years. "But it's private." The Oblates are a secular institute for women, with 460 members living and working in 20 countries. Founded in Canada in 1952, the institute has a missionary focus, but its members generally work at jobs in the secular world.

Members take vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, but they do not live in community and are not addressed by religious titles such as "sister." "The gift of the person to God is permanent," said Anita Plourde, president of the institute, "but in the Church itself, we remain as laypersons."

Cyr, who lives in Connecticut, spent about 16 years working with immigrants in a nonprofit organization, then another two decades working in the federal government's immigration office. During that time, she considered her ministry to be as much to her coworkers as to the immigrants she assisted.

“You do what is right in front of you,” said Cyr of her efforts to promote a positive, charitable attitude in the immigration office. “I’m not a negative person. I live in the present moment, and I do it with a positive attitude.”

Plourde said the institute’s members tend to be recognized by the people around them as good listeners “Other people come to them when they have a problem,” Plourde said.

*Michelle Martin writes from Illinois.*

## Thérèse-Anne Druart Honored

*During this year of Consecrated Life we want to highlight a recent honor given to Thérèse-Anne Druart, who serves on the international leadership team for Caritas Christi:*

**Thérèse-Anne DRUART**

**Professor, Director of the Center of Medieval and Byzantine Studies**

**M.A. in Medieval Studies, M.A. in Philosophy, Ph.D. in Philosophy (Plato) (Université Catholique de Louvain);**

**B. Phil. In Oriental Studies, Section Medieval Islamic Philosophy and Theology (Oxford University)**

**Taught for nine years at Georgetown University before coming to C.U.A. has been Visiting Lecturer at the Universidad de Navarra, Pamplona (Spain), The University of Pennsylvania, and Visiting Professor at Institut Catholique de Madagascar.**

**Sept. 18, 2014: Philosophy Professor Honored by University of Dayton**

Philosophy Professor Thérèse-Anne Druart was recently honored by the University of Dayton with its 2014 Marianist Award. Named for the religious order that founded the University of Dayton, the award “recognizes a Roman Catholic whose work has made a major contribution to the intellectual life,” according to the event program.

“Dr. Thérèse-Anne Druart brings to her scholarship only the highest substantive and methodological standards, so in honoring her contributions to the Catholic intellectual tradition, the Marianist Award expresses recognition of her own significant achievements as well as the collective research signature of the University’s School of Philosophy,” said James Brennan, Catholic University Provost.

At the award ceremony on Sept. 12, Druart was presented with a piece of Marian-themed art and a stipend after delivering a lecture, “What has Baghdad to do with Rome? Or Arabic Philosophy with Faith?” “Professor Thérèse-Anne Druart’s Christian faith is at the very center of her life, and she makes no secret of it professionally,” said John McCarthy, dean of CUA’s School of Philosophy. “In addition to her distinguished record of publication, she is a wonderful teacher and an extremely generous colleague and friend. I am delighted that the University of Dayton has recognized her scholarly achievement, which does great honor to our Church and our University.”



**Philosophy Professor Thérèse-Anne Druart, center, is presented with the Marianist Award by Michael Carter, associate professor of history (left) and Rev. James Fitz, S.M., rector of the University of Dayton. (Photo courtesy of Julie Walling, University of Dayton)**



# VIS

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# Vatican Information Service

## The Pope announces an Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

Vatican City, 14 March 2015 (VIS) – Yesterday, 13 March 2015, in St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis declared the celebration of an extraordinary Holy year. The Jubilee announcement was made during the homily of the penitential celebration with which he opened the "24 Hours for the Lord" initiative. This "Jubilee of Mercy" will commence with the opening of the Holy Door in the Vatican Basilica on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, 8 December 2015, and will conclude on November 20, 2016 with the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

The papal Bull will be made public on Divine Mercy Sunday, 12 April 2015, the Feast day instituted by St. John Paul II and celebrated on the Sunday after Easter.

## Making the Vocation Known

### 1. From Kathy Tierney, Indianapolis, IN:

Myself, a consecrated virgin and an anchoress of our diocese together wrote a letter asking Archbishop Tobin to remember us during the Year of Consecrated Life in any of the planned events. We copied it to the directors of five other departments (vocations, education, etc.) Our consecrated virgin delivered the letter to him personally during their semi-annual meeting Monday. On Tuesday I got an email from the vocations department assistant stating the Archbishop was asking everyone to start planning a Day of Celebration Mass and wants ALL people from ALL the forms of consecrated life invited!

### 2. From Mary-Cabrini Durkin, Principal Officer to Sandra Clark, Chair of USCSI Vocation Committee

In the spirit of sharing ideas, here's my invitation to spiritual directors (sent individually by email to all listed on a diocesan website and by snail mail to a few without email addresses) and to pastors and pastoral staff in all Cincinnati parishes, also by email - the version you see here. It was adjusted slightly for the two groups.

I also sent the information both as this letter and in bullet-point summary (what/when/where) to the Director of the Office for Religious, who sent the abbreviated form to spiritual directors. With more lead time - mea culpa - she would have submitted it to the Clergy Bulletin.

So far, five spiritual directors have accepted the invitation. That's five people who will know more than they had previously.

I also posted this as an event on our Facebook page. The link to that is at the bottom of this entire message.

The US head of Caritas Christi is a schoolmate of mine who lives here in Cincinnati. I had earlier asked whether she would like to collaborate on some initiatives for this Year of Consecrated Life, but she is very busy, and also careful about reserve. If I knew any other local consecrated seculars, I'd have asked them too.

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Continued ... Making the  
Vocation known....

February 3, 2015

Dear Pastor and Pastoral staff,

In the spirit of this Year of Consecrated Life, may I invite you to learn more about what I sometimes call the Church's *best-kept secret*? It is a form of consecrated life: the secular institute. Perhaps you know that secular institutes were incorporated into the Church's canons in 1947, when Pope Pius XII issued the Apostolic Constitution *Provida Mater Ecclesia*. Many institutes exist in the USA, some in our archdiocese.

Historical reasons have crafted a kind of invisibility for secular institutes. Some men and women who might find this to be their authentic vocational path may not even know that it exists. You are ideally positioned to foster awareness. You know men and women who are drawn to a life shaped around their relationship with God – in the world – but who have no idea that consecrated life for single lay people even exists. What a beautiful service: to help a seeker find the way!

Please stop in at an informational open house at the address above, on one of the following afternoons:

- Sunday, February 15, 2-4 p.m.
- Monday, February 16, 2-4 p.m.
- Tuesday, February 17, 2-4 p.m.

Come when you can, leave when you must. Enjoy simple refreshments, ask questions, share your own experiences, pick up some reading material....

RSVP by Friday, February 13, at [csu@fuse.net](mailto:csu@fuse.net) or 513-961-0667.

I belong to [\*the Company of St. Ursula\*](#), the original secular institute, founded in 1535 by St. Angela Merici. We are a member institute of the [US Conference of Secular Institutes](#) (to which Archbishop Schnurr was once the USCCB liaison, by the way). Although our membership is female, there are institutes for men and others that are mixed.

Mary-Cabrini Durkin

[www.companyofstursula.org](http://www.companyofstursula.org)

<http://www.Facebook.com/CompanyofStUrsula>

### **3. From Maria Vinje, Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, Staten Island, NY**

Thanks so much for the Mountaineer - a work of art! I am going to speak to the seminarians in Newark on January 29 and 30, 2015, about secular institutes. Could you send me 50 brochures from USCSI? I only get 10 minutes so I would like to have something they could put in their files for reference. I meet with the vocation director for consecrated life next week to find out more.

### **4. From Mary Ann Tady, principal officer, Madonna della Strada/Our Lady of the Way**

I was very happy to read the February 1, 2015, *Our Sunday Visitor's* article on Living the Consecrated life where the topic on secular institutes quotes Claudette Cyr and Anita Plourde. God bless!

Continued next page...

## 5. From *VISION* Magazine:

2015 Statistics for United States Conference of Secular Institutes					
	Viewing of your online listing	Click thru to your website	Prospects sent to you	Click thru to your opportunity *	Alert requests ?
Jul 2014	35	20	11	0	1
Jun 2014	21	12	7	0	0
May 2014	15	9	4	0	0
Apr 2014	24	11	14	0	2
Mar 2014	19	11	9	0	0
Feb 2014	19	10	9	0	0
Jan 2014	17	8	13	0	0
Dec 2013	16	9	5	0	0
Nov 2013	18	10	8	0	0
Oct 2013	17	11	8	0	0
Sep 2013	29	14	16	0	0
Aug 2013	31	18	21	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>

\* = Data reflects the minimum number of viewings your opportunity has received.

6. Remember to pray for those on whose shoulders we stand! Kindly remember **Melody Sorrentino** on the first anniversary of her call into eternity which was on March 4, 2014. **She was a 25 year member of the Lay Missionaries of the Passion.** May she rest in peace.
7. **The Father Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata invite you to Jillian Cooke's Perpetual Profession of the Vows.** The rite will take place during Holy Mass at 1:00 pm on March 21, 2015, at St Christopher Church in West Covina, CA. Heartfelt Congratulations!
8. **Elizabeth Rockwood from the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate**, wrote the following article for her parish bulletin on January 11, 2015, in San Antonio, Texas:

### **A New Form of Consecrated Life – Is it for You?**

Pope Francis named 2015 The Year of Consecrated Life. Since I am in formation in an institute of consecrated life, Fr. Kevin has given me this wonderful opportunity to share with you from my experience. Someone recently asked me, "What exactly does the word "consecrated" mean? In general the word "consecrated" can mean "to dedicate to some service or goal." In the Catholic Church "consecrated" means dedicated to God and "consecrated life" means a special consecration of oneself "for love of the Lord Jesus and, in him, of every member of the human family."

Another question people ask is, "Why does anyone choose consecrated life?" The usual answer to this question is, "People are called by God to this vocation." However people are unique and every call has its own story. My experience was that the call came as the next step in a life-long relationship with Our Lord that began with baptism and continued through the nurture of Church and family. As a woman I felt Christ's call to me was to live his love through married life, motherhood, in the world immediately around me, in my profession as a writer and in my Church and as a Lay Associate of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. Following my husband's death, and with our children grown, I longed to dedicate the rest of my life to Our Lord as completely as I could. A prayer attributed to Archbishop Oscar Romero helped me find words for my own sense of call,

"Lord, I am yours. Show me the way."

The way that opened for me was to consecrated life in a Secular Institute. Secular Institutes are a new way of consecrated life affirmed by the Church since 1947. There are Secular Institutes for single men, single women, and for priests. Their purpose is to penetrate and make a difference in every aspect of today's world. Each Institute seeks to form deeply committed Catholics and send them like seeds sown for the love of Christ into their diverse areas of influence. For example, in keeping with members' natural gifts, talents, and professional experience, members can be found today as teachers, artists, musicians, health professionals, full time caregivers of family members, hairdressers, business managers, cooks, lawyers, missionaries, and, even, recently, as a newly named Cardinal in Canada (Gerald La Croix). Today, there are 200 Secular Institutes world-wide with more than 25,000 members.

Each Secular Institute has its own founder, special emphasis and formation process leading to profession of the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. These vows, along with daily nurture in our spiritual lives, faithfulness to our Institute's Constitutions and mutual support of each other strengthen, guide and light the way for us as we seek to make a difference for Christ in the heart of the world. We are not required to live in community and each member can be self-supporting. At the same time, we remain closely united.

How can a person know if Our Lord is calling him or her to consecrated life? One time I asked a priest how he had known he was called to the priesthood. "I knew," he said, "because the call wouldn't go away." Then he added, "And I knew because of the joy and peace I felt when I said 'yes.'"

#### 9. More...from Betsy (Elizabeth):

The Provincial of the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart from Ireland was visiting Betsy's parish in San Antonio, TX, and read her article about SIs she wrote for her church bulletin...he spoke with her and asked her if she would write an article addressed to priests to educate them on SIs. He will publish her article in the bulletin that goes out to all the priests in his Province which is made up of many countries...to name a few, Ireland, Russia, etc. He said that his priests are discouraged with so many leaving the Church, no vocations, etc. He is hoping that Betsy's article will encourage them and inspire them to want to learn more about SIs and that there is hope.

**"Embracing the future with hope." -Pope Francis**

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS AND UPDATES

Anita Plourde, President of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, Trois Rivieres, Quebec, Canada, shares:

As you know Pope Francis has taken the initiative in 2014 to form a coalition with other leaders of the world religions to work towards eliminating all the various forms of slavery present in our modern world. In his message for the World Day of Peace on January 1, 2015, he elaborated further his reflection regarding this topic: no longer slaves, but brothers and sisters.

You are receiving an invitation from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life transmitted by the World Conference of Secular Institutes (CMIS) to each member of consecrated life to do something about slavery in each of our own corners of the world.

I extend to you [dear Oblates – and each reading our Mountaineer] the invitation in union with all consecrated persons to see what action you can take singly or with others to respond to the challenge by prayer, offering, learning about the plight of our enslaved brothers and sisters throughout the world and know organizations or groups which are already engaged in combating the evils of human trafficking and other forms of enslavement in your country and in the world.

May the Holy Spirit inspire you. Peace and friendship, *Anita Plourde*

On January 12, 2015, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life invited Superiors General to a SEMINAR FOR FORMATORS OF INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE. Archbishop Jose Rodriguez Carballo, O.F.M., Secretary, posted the information on the CMIS Website. The Seminar will be held at the Ergife Palace Hotel on Via Aurelia in Rome from April 8-11, 2015. (Registration which includes two coffee breaks and a buffet lunch daily is 290 euros per person. Lodging at the Hotel is 81 Euros per day for single room with breakfast and taxes due to the City of Rome.) Please let us know if your institute attended so we can post another news bulletin in our Summer Mountaineer.

**USCSI Brochures have arrived!** Yes, we have newly printed vocation materials available. An attractive colorful large stand-up folder and a convenient trifold brochure direct those discerning a vocation to the website and live podcasts of secular institute members from around the USA sharing their vocation! Our USCSI Secretary will be mailing a box to all Principal Officers and Principal Contacts of our USA Institutes. Look forward to Jessica's email where you can personalize the amounts sent to your institute and/or vocation directors and parish offices and the like. Or be pro-active and contact her at [jessica@schrsmary.org](mailto:jessica@schrsmary.org)

## US Catechism (CCC) Goes Online in English and Spanish

### Bishops' Conference Makes Free Resource Available

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 13, 2014 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)) - An online version of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults has been released by the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis (USCCA). It is free and available in English and Spanish.

"As more people are turning to the Internet for information, we must be able to provide faithful information about the Catholic faith. The online USCCA provides an opportunity for all people to access Church teaching online, use this resource for research and share with others," said Bishop David Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, chairman of the committee.

"The USCCA is an especially wonderful resource because it contextualizes our faith within our American culture, and also includes stories of American saints and holy men and women, prayers, reflections and study questions," Bishop Ricken said.

The USCCA is based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Following the outline of the Catechism, the USCCA walks the reader through the Creed, the sacraments, moral life in Christ and the prayers of the Church. Each chapter contains a story about a saint, blessed, or holy man or woman, a brief overview of the topic, reflection questions and a prayer. Also, included in the appendices are a glossary of Catholic terms and traditional Catholic prayers.

The USCCA online is searchable, printable, and shareable. The table of contents provides easy access to each chapter, and the glossary is included as well as the appendices.

The USCCA is available in English at [www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/us-catholic-catechism-for-adults/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catechism/us-catholic-catechism-for-adults/index.cfm) and in Spanish at <http://ccc.usccb.org/flipbooks/uscca-spanish/index.html>.

A printed version can be ordered through USCCB Customer Relations by visiting [www.usccbpublishing.org/](http://www.usccbpublishing.org/).

## **YOU are needed! Mark your calendars for three Fall 2015 Events and more:**

### **USCSI ANNUAL MEETING – SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2015:**

This year our location moves to sunny San Antonio, Texas. We will be meeting and staying at the Oblate Theology Center. Our theme will be: Embracing the Future with Hope. Speakers and details will be coming in our June Mountaineer after the Executive Meeting in Detroit at the end of May. Save the Date postcards have been sent to all principal officers to share with their members. We hope to see you all there!

### **WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES – SEPTEMBER 22-27, 2015:**

"I would like to confirm that, God willing in September 2015, I will go to Philadelphia for the Eighth World Meeting of Families." The pope made the announcement Nov. 17, 2014, in a speech opening an interreligious conference on traditional marriage. Philadelphia Archbishop Charles J. Chaput said, "I believe that the presence of the Holy Father will bring all of US-- Catholic and non-Catholic alike -- together in tremendously powerful, unifying and healing ways. We look forward to Pope Francis' arrival and we will welcome him joyfully with open arms and prayerful hearts."

During his visit, Pope Francis is expected to attend the Festival of Families Sept. 26, a cultural celebration for hundreds of thousands of people along Philadelphia's main cultural boulevard, the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. Donna Farrell, executive director for the 2015 World Meeting of Families and its chief planner, said although Philadelphia has hosted St. Pope John Paul's visit in 1979, the city has "not had anything like this unique Festival of Families. It's really going to be something special."

Registration for the congress opened in mid-November and is expected to draw 12-15,000 from around the world. The meeting will be a weeklong series of talks, discussions and activities. Pope Francis is expected to celebrate a public Mass for an estimated 1 million people on Sept. 27 on the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art, in full view of the crowds arrayed from the museum down the Ben Franklin Parkway.

**USCSI has obtained a booth at the Exhibit Hall and we are looking for Secular Institute Volunteers to work at the booth from Tuesday Noon through Friday Noon, Sept 22-25, 2015. Please give Jessica a call or email if you would want to come!**

### **NATIONAL CATHOLIC YOUTH CONFERENCE – NOVEMBER 19-21, 2015:**

Our next call for volunteers is at the "NCYC" National Catholic Youth Convention. This is held every second year and draws 20-25,000 high schoolers from around the USA. It will be held again at the Indianapolis Conference Center from November 19-21, 2015, with the theme: Here I am Lord. Three of us manned the booth in 2013 and it was practically non-stop. Kathy Tierney offers lodging nearby. Prayerfully consider if you could come to invite and inspire youth to consider a consecrated life vocation. Again give Jessica a call or email if you could come or have any questions: 612-618-9334 [jessica@schsrsmary.org](mailto:jessica@schsrsmary.org)

### **SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2016:**

For next year reserve this third September weekend for our USCSI Annual Meeting. Our speaker will be Grace before Meals Fr Leo Patalunglin and we will be staying at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, MD—which is 30 minutes from BWI Baltimore Airport.

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