



# The Mountaineer

From the President

October 2017

Volume 10, Issue 3

Dear Friends,

Our annual meeting of USCSI was a wonderful weekend of support and sharing among our secular institute members. I think we were all in awe of the richness of the charisms of our respective founders and foundresses and amazed at the diversity of the inspirations from the Holy Spirit.

The choice of the theme **The Charism of Secular Institutes as Seen through the Eyes of Our Founders** was influenced by the 70th anniversary of *Provida Mater Ecclesia* which set the stage for the approval of secular institutes in the Church, and the recent publication of a document on the identity of secular institutes by the Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Through the lens of each founder's charism we looked at the uniqueness of our institutes as is expressed in each one's mission and lifestyle. It was fascinating to hear of the various situations that set the stage for each institute to be birthed. The presentations and discussions were also an invitation to understand our own founders better and to be able to articulate what makes our institute unique and needed in today's world.

As we work to make the vocation of secular institutes more widely known and accepted in the Church, it is imperative that we have the broad view of how secularity is expressed in institutes other than our own. We need all forms of secular institutes to enrich the Church. One way is not sufficient.

Our institutes reflect the pluralism of our culture and openness to the needs of the time. Today we also find numerous crises in society that urge us to consecrate the world to God. This is our task, to lift the world up to God. We are called to give other laypersons an example but also to draw down grace upon the world to answer the crying needs.

May Mary, our Mother, bless each of you richly during this month dedicated to her rosary and the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the miracle of the sun at Fatima. May she work miracles for you today.

Marcia Vinje



## USCSI Mission Statement:

The USCSI shares in the mission of Jesus Christ in serving its member institutes by providing education, resources, and support for member institutes.

The USCSI is an organization of member institutes committed to making known, understood, and appreciated the call to consecrated secularity in the Catholic Church.

USCSI collaborates with other groups to present consecrated secularity as a viable option in today's Church.

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## USCSI ANNUAL MEETING at Marriottsville, MD September 15-17, 2017 By Annmarie Wacker

The United States Conference of Secular Institutes met at the Bon Secours Retreat and Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland, from Friday, September 15 until Sunday, September 17. After dinner on Friday President Marcia Vinje welcomed the members and introduced the program for the Conference. This was followed by Holy Mass, and a gathering for those who wished to stay.

On Saturday morning Marcia explained that this year we would be looking briefly at the development of Secular Institutes in the Church, as well as profiling the view of secularity by four institutes in particular. Anita Plourde, OMMI presented an overview of the development of Secular Institutes in the Church. She mentioned the two Papal Documents that brought the awareness of this style of life to the Church. In 1972 the document from Pope Paul VI showed the relationship of Secular Institutes and Religious. The term Secular Institute is not easily understood as it puts lay and consecrated together. Some Institutes developed very early, some after 1947, and others after Vatican II. Each had a reason for its foundation.

Next it was mentioned that a charism is a free gift of the Holy Spirit which is given to an individual or group for a particular work for the Church in bringing Christ to the world, to equip for ministry to build the Body of Christ. The founder's charism ends with the founding of the foundation, which is a group of people attracted to the founder's mission. Their way of living is usually a spirituality from the founder. This spirituality forms the Institute, colors the Institute, and is the heart of the Institute. The charism leads to the mission which presents a part of Christ needed in the building up of the Church. Once the institute is founded, the charism becomes the responsibility of each member. In many cases the members did not want to be religious, but wanted to dedicate their lives by a life imbued with Christian values in the world. The responsibility of the members is to make sure that the charism remains intact and does not diminish. They are to be the light and leaven in the world. The various institutes differ in their spirituality, fraternal life, and structure.

The afternoon consisted in presentations by various institutes in their view of secularity. This included what led to their foundation.



**Sue Larkin, Fr Christian Christensen, Thérèse Druart & Mary-Cabrini Durkin were the Saturday Presenters.**

**Caritas Christi** presented by Thérèse Druart

Caritas Christi was founded in France on August 4, 1937, by Juliette Molland, a lay woman, and Fr. Joseph-Marie Perrin, a Dominican priest. They wanted "to raise up all over the world lay women whose lives would be totally given for the rule of his love in the world through the Church." Caritas Christi refers to "Caritas Christi urget nos," the love of Christ impels us, which comes from St Paul (Cor 2, 5:14). Their original name was "Little Sisters of St. Catherine of Siena" since St. Catherine was a lay saint and did not live in a convent. It was changed since the word "sisters" could be confused with a religious order. They did not want to limit membership to a Dominican spirituality, and a Latin name would be more international.

According to the wish of their founder, they renounce everything to live for Him alone in the world, in the life of the world, in order to save the world. They embrace the ordinary life faced by people in the world. They have no external sign such as a habit, no mother-house, and should possess no buildings. Theirs is a secularity in the midst of the world.

**Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ** presented by Susan Larkin

The Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ were founded in Italy at the beginning of World War I. Their foundress, Armida Barelli, and Father

## Annual Meeting...continued

Agostino Gemelli, OFM wanted to foster the devotion to the Sacred Heart. They wanted the Italian army to be dedicated to the Sacred Heart, which did happen in 1917. The Foundress was asked to educate young women. Pope Benedict XV wanted her to be a Third Order. In 1919, 12 women took vows under the Franciscan rule. This changed after 1947 with the publication of *Provida Mater*. The members take a vow of chastity and live among the workers to bring Christ to where they are. They do not live in community, but they have had a house and a retreat house. Living on their own, they communicate by conference calls. Those living near each other meet more regularly. They are now actively recruiting new members.

### Company of St. Ursula

presented by Mary-Cabrini Durkin

The Company of St. Ursula was founded by St Angela Merici (1474 - 1540) who had a vision of a ladder between earth and heaven. In 1535 she wanted to give her life to Christ. She and her followers wanted to be "called to be true and chaste spouses of the Son of God." They want to be faithful, loving, and intimate. Walking with Christ they want to make a Gospel contribution. Theirs is a spousal spirituality fostered in prayer while modeling their lives through the evangelical counsels. They collaborate in his mission and are to be his love in the world. The Canadian Company to which the Americans belong, were federated in 1958. There is one annual meeting and some smaller meetings. There are different Companies, with three possible variations of a sacred bond: vows, promises, or a firm commitment. St Ursula was chosen to be the patroness.

### Schoenstatt Institutes

presented by Father Christian Christensen

The Schoenstatt Institutes are related with a long history that began in 1914. The founder, Father Joseph Kentenich, wanted to educate seminarians in the love of Mary to have a spiritual home and to be sent out to all the world as apostles. Schoenstatt was founded October 18, 1914 through a covenant of love with Our Lady in the small shrine and they see themselves as instruments of Mary. The aim is to form the new person in the new community carried by love and with an apostolic character, to bring God into the world. The Secular Institutes are to be a binding link between the Church

and the world. There is a consecration to Mary and a contract between the member and the Institute. The secularity is in the legal contract with the covenant of love as the motive. There are six Institutes with members in 30 countries. Education is necessary for formation so members can go into the world with a secure moral formation. They have an intense family style of community with an obedience that is authoritarian in principal, yet democratic in application. Obligations only as far as necessary, freedom as much as possible, with formation of spirit as much as possible.

After these presentation each institute or family of institutes had time to share together about their own charisms.

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Later in the afternoon those who attended the Convocation for Catholic Leaders held in Orlando from July 1-4, 2017, shared their experiences. Short keynotes and panel presentations were so planned as the bishops wanted to hear from the people.

Day 1 considered the vision of Pope Francis with *The Radical Call to Missionary Discipleship*.

Day 2 dealt with *Charting the Landscape and Mission Field*. The Church is growing in the South and West due to moving for jobs and immigration.

On Day 3 there was a Eucharistic procession around the Orange County Convention Center. Then discussions went deeper into the topic of *Going Deeper into the Peripheries* reaching out to the marginalized with practical strategies.

Day 4 The theme was *Spirit-Filled Evangelizers Equipped for Excellence*.

We should be concerned with our circle of influence, forgetting about wider circles for whom we can't do as much. Many statistics showed the situation that is present today.

On Saturday evening we watched the film "The 13<sup>th</sup> Day" to share in the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of Mary at Fatima.

Sunday morning included morning prayer with Holy Mass, followed by the Business Meeting, during which Jessica Swedzinski was re-elected Secretary and Evelyn Loyola as Treasurer. The Conference concluded with lunch.

## Ten Secular Institutes Discuss Their Founding Charism



Angela DiPaola & Catherine McDonnell - Apostolic Oblates



Therese Druart & Diana Navarro - Caritas Christi



Liliane Dozois & Mary-Cabrini Durkin - Company of St Ursula



Susan Hammaker & Kathy Tierney-DeSales Institute



Marlene Holman, Pearlina Archer & Judy Salcedo  
Madonna della Strada



Sue Larkin, Karen Bruskevicz, Kay Lawrence  
Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ



Fr Christian Christensen, Danielle Peters, Marcia Vinje,  
Annmari Wacker-Schoenstatt Fathers & Sisters of Mary



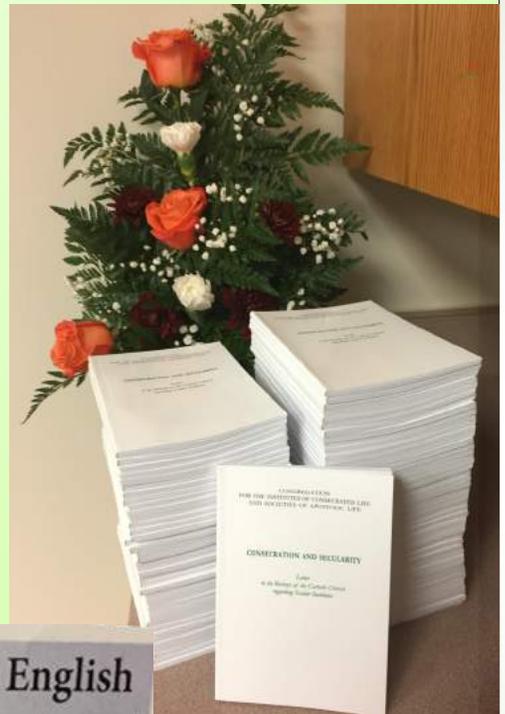
Fr George Hazler-Voluntas Dei, Claudette Cyr & Anita  
Plourde - Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate

## Vatican Publication Involving Secular Institutes

CMIS, the international conference of Secular Institutes renewed good and frequent relations with the Congregation in charge of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. In this framework, this Congregation wishes something like *Provida Mater Ecclesia* guidelines called "carta identitaria." The *Provida Mater Ecclesia* Constitution was written 70 years ago; and later, secular institutes grew with different ways for implementing this constitution; Vatican II also happened. There is no desire for any kind of control or restrictions, but a sincere longing to clearly define our specific vocation according to these experiences. For almost two years, CMIS has been working with the leaders of the Congregation: the Prefect Cardinal Braz de Aviz and his Secretary Mgr Carballo, O.F.M., the two under-Secretaries, and Daniela Leggio (in charge with the Conferences from CMIS) and F. Leonello Leidi (in charge with all our SIs). The last General Assembly of CMIS was informed of this work and discussed it.

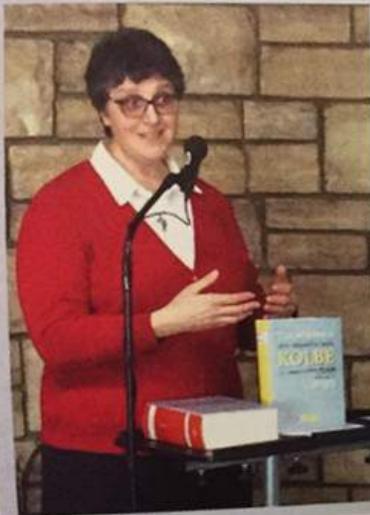
*Pierre Langeron, Secretary of CMIS, 1/2017*

So with great joy the finished booklet will be in your hands shortly. As you read this we are receiving a 1000 copies of **CONSECRATION and SECULARITY** from the Congregation in Rome. This booklet is the tool to personally bring to your arch/bishop/s, vicars of consecrated life, school counselors, pastors and the like. Donations are \$2 per booklet. Email your mailing address and number of copies desired to: [jessica@schsrsmary.org](mailto:jessica@schsrsmary.org)



## Antonella Di Piazza coordinates a two-volume Compendium on St Kolbe

### St. Maximilian Kolbe Writings Now Available in English



At long last, St. Maximilian Kolbe's devotees and Marian scholars alike can find the entire wide-ranging array of the Polish saint's writings collected together in a two-volume compendium, available in the U.S., exclusively through Marytown Press. The publication of the first critical edition of Kolbe's writings in English was done by a collective effort coordinated by Antonella Di Piazza (left), a member of the Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata. For decades, the English-speaking world could read only a few small collections of his inspiring words. A three-year monumental and painstaking project was undertaken to allow for easier reading and broader research. For more information visit [Marytown.com](http://Marytown.com).

## Notes and News Flashes

- OSV (Our Sunday Visitor) of June 18-24, 2017, published on page 3, that Pope Francis named a 46-year-old Brazilian **Schoenstatt priest, Father Alexandre Awi Mello, as the Secretary for the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family, and Life.** Fr. Alexandre is completing a doctorate in Mariology at the University of Dayton's International Marian Research Institute, where he took among others, Jean Frisk's class on Mary in Catechesis. He is humble, gentle, and ever kind. He started out wanting to do his doctorate on Schoenstatt's Founder's notion of pilgrimage (as Fr Awi Mello was head of the Schoenstatt Movement and Rosary Campaign in Brazil). Later, he changed when the doors opened for so much personal contact with Pope Francis, and for work on Mary.



- A newsworthy item from the Cathedral of the Madeleine in Salt Lake City: On June 17, 2017, Bishop Oscar Solis ordained to the priesthood, **Fr. Alexis Ibarra, a member of the Secular Institute Voluntas Dei.** Why SLC? The original bishop for the ordination was appointed a Cardinal and is in Rome. Bishop Solis came to us from Los Angeles, where the new priest will be serving. -Nancy Kranes, Caritas Christi
- November Month is dedicated to pray for the Poor Souls.** Kindly remember in your Masses and prayers these deceased members:



**Margaret Gould** died Feb 15, 2017 Madonna della Strada  
Caritas Christi members who died 2016-2017 include:

**Doris Poisson** February 28, 2016

**Alice Jones** May 16, 2016

**Catherine Heinz** June 18, 2016

**Veronica Miller** July 4, 2017

Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ include: Fr. Alexis Ibarra, I.V.Dei,

**Emma Roper** January 4, 2017

**Agnes Lutwtize** March 23, 2017

**Ruth Koseba** May 1, 2017

**Jacqueline Morin**, who planted the Company of St. Ursula in North America, died in Quebec on June 5, 2017, "in a great calm," according to Thérèse B., her faithful successor in leading the Company of Canada. Two weeks earlier, she had celebrated its 50th anniversary. For the full article, please go to the Company of St Ursula website and read their June Issue.

### Making An Impact In Our World!

- Here is her world renowned rap :-) from none other than our own secular institute member:  
**Yvette Fouchi, Missionary of the Kingship of Christ, from Metairie, Louisiana!**

I have performed it countless times with middle-school and high school kids. Their reaction is always the same - they scream in shock when they see this old lady break into a really poorly done rap, complete with hand motions. They laugh, I laugh, it's all good.

It's debut was made several years ago for the "Calling All Fifth Graders" gathering of hundreds of local fifth graders, teachers, chaperones, priests, and religious sisters in the New Orleans area. The purpose of the gathering was to introduce the kids to human faces to possible choices in vocational life.



My name is Miss Yvette, and I'm here to say

(point to myself and then to the ground where I'm standing)

If you want to get to heaven, if you want to know the way

(point up, then shrug shoulders)

I'll give it to you straight, the number one plan

(both hands indicate a straight path, then make a #1 gesture with my index finger)

Put your hand in the hand of the Number One Man

(put one hand to other, as if in prayer)

Word (maintain hands in prayer, then bow head down)

On a more serious note from Yvette, I'd like to share this so we receive an insight into her work:

I am writing to my friends and family asking for 15-minute prayer commitments on

**TUESDAY, JULY 25, 2017 -- STARTING AT 11am and ENDING AT 5pm.**

I will be teaching the **You Are L.O.V.E.D.** program (Theology of the Body, incognito) to the rescued sex trafficked girls at Free Indeed, a local safe house. These girls are 12 - 17 years old, and they have a full house of all new girls.

I am hoping that the day will be covered in prayer helping to pave the way for each girl to come to know that she is **L**oved as a **O**ne-of-a-Kind, **V**ibrant, **E**xtraordinary, **D**aughter of the King of Kings.

Please let me know what 15-minute time slot you are available to pray as **SOON** as **POSSIBLE**

**So far I have 2 time slots covered: 11:45a to 12p and 4p-4:15p**

Only 19 more time slots to fill!!! :-)

If you are able to commit for a 15-minute time slot, please pray for the Holy Spirit to be with us in a special way, bringing love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

Also, please pray for:

- The girls feel safe, engaged, loved
- The girls experience an increased awareness and understanding of their God-given dignity
- All enjoy the day and We stay on time with the schedule
- Food and cookies – all goes smoothly

I will make a display for the girls to see (first names only) the people who are praying for them that day. The lived message will be - these people love you and are praying for you --- and they don't need you to do anything in return.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Please feel free to pray for us outside of that one day!!!!!!!!!!!! :-)

Your sister in Christ Jesus, Yvette



Annual Meeting Photo

Great echoes were heard from our second stay at the Bon Secours in Marriottsville, Maryland.

Make plans now to attend the next Annual Meeting of the USCSI. It will be in Scottsdale, Arizona September 28-30, 2018.

Lightning Bugs

Walking along the forest path at dusk  
my eye is suddenly alerted  
by bursts of light  
flashing points of amber glow.

I stop and smile, transfixed by  
a cloud of winking, golden globes  
signaling their gathering presence,  
inviting me as well to incandescent being.

O brightness of the Father's glory  
shine forth from me for all to see  
till consumed by the fire of Love  
I glow with joy for all eternity.

August 24, 2001  
Sandra Clark

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**SAVE THE DATE**

**USCSI Annual Meeting  
Franciscan Renewal Center**

**September 28-30, 2018  
5802 East Lincoln Drive  
Scottsdale, AZ 85253**