



# The Mountaineer

Dear Friends,

Volume 12, Issue 1 April, 2019

Christ has risen, alleluia! The most glorious time of year is upon us and we want to embrace the reality that Jesus lives among us and in us. It is a time of joy and glory, no matter what is going on around us: joy because the plan of redemption has been fulfilled; glory because our very own human nature has been divinized in Christ Jesus, risen from the dead. This is the real world, although many are blind to it. Let us never forget that the war has been won even if there are skirmishes still occurring.

This year the idea of the empty tomb has occupied my meditation. The stone was not rolled away to let Jesus OUT of the tomb, but to let us IN. The tomb was opened so that we could see the truth that death has been conquered and nothing can hold back the Lord from doing his salvific work.

We all have tombs in our lives where we are hiding sins or memories that we don't want to face. Perhaps now is the time to roll away the stone and let Jesus into our tombs with his radiant light that penetrates every darkness. Darkness never triumphs over light. Light always wins. Truth always wins. Mercy always wins. Let the light in.

In February the Executive Committee met to plan our fall national meeting. Very important to note, we have a change of venue. This September, it will be held at **Marytown, Libertyville, Illinois, a lovely retreat house that houses the National Shrine of St. Maximilian Kolbe.** We fell in love with the charm and character of the place which has a very special spirit, in no small part due to its church where there is perpetual adoration.

Our speaker will be Father Marcel Caron, president of the Canadian Conference of Secular Institutes. I met him in Rome in 2016 at the World Conference of Secular Institutes (CMIS) and was impressed at the opening Mass when he gave his homily in three languages. As the week progressed we resolved to get together to share our common experiences of secular institutes in North America. Obviously a leader, Father was elected to the Board of Directors of CMIS and so will bring us a worldwide perspective as well.

Please, do come September 13-15. You won't be sorry.

With prayers and wishes for many blessings on each of you, *Marcia Vinje*

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## SEEK19 Comes to “My Backyard” by Kathy Tierney

It was an absolute delight to welcome our USCSI team and 17,000 attendees of the FOCUS / SEEK19 Conference “Encounter Something More” to my hometown of Indianapolis! The conference was held in the Indiana Convention Center, directly across from my parish, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. Jessica Swedzinski (Schoenstatt Sisters), Terrie Alby (Caritas Christi), Joan Patten and Monica Hejkal (Apostolic Oblates) and I staffed the USCSI booth during the 16-hour conference days from January 3-7, 2019, enlightening many about our mostly unknown vocation.

It was wonderful having representatives from four institutes who could explain the uniqueness of their own institutes while educating people about the vocation as a whole. Our booth was like a restaurant sampler, with Salesian books, the Schoenstatt Icon of Mary, and stickers from the Apostolic Oblates, as well as rosaries, USCSI magnets freebies (2,000), and the debut of a poster with the names of our 18 member institutes in their women, priest, or men groupings. This was also the first year for our four-fold brochure listing of the vocation directors of our individual institutes (300 were distributed).

I always make copies of the USCCB Vocations website that lists the five forms of consecrated life. It is usually new information for people who think that religious life is the only form of consecrated life. And people seem much more receptive to our vocation once they see it falls squarely within the Church’s family of consecrated life vocations.

Not only is it a joy to share our vocation with others, but it gives me great hope for the Church to see thousands of Catholic college students on fire for their faith, singing at Mass, lining up for confession and saying grace before their meals in public restaurants. It is a pleasure and an honor for the USCSI to attend this conference, hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. Let us all pray for the continued success of their mission to bring college students closer to Christ, and for us to help them on the path to their vocation.

*Kathy Tierney, DeSales Secular Institute*

*Note: Kathy emailed to put Curtis Martin's book, **Making Missionary Disciples – How to Live the Method***

*Modeled by the Master*, (which was distributed at the conference), on the suggested reading list for our USCSI members.

*Next we hear from Monica: Having a booth for the USCSI at the FOCUS Seek Conference for college students was an important event to spread the word about secular institutes. We had many encounters with students who were interested in learning more about forms of consecrated life in the Church and also with some with young women who are currently discerning consecrated life. The time spent seemed to be fruitful, even though we were not able to speak to all 17,000 attendees! I hope that the materials we passed out with our website on it will also lead many to look into who we are.*

One aspect that touched me that weekend was the beauty of all the forms of consecrated life that were present. Each form of consecration has its particular expression which flows from the unique charism of each community. The Lord blesses the world through each institute, each fulfilling a particular need of the Church. We all work together, not in competition but in complementarity. There were also many other organizations present that address specific needs. No group can do it all, and none of us is called to that, so it brings me great hope to see so many people dedicated to bringing the Good News to the world.

*Monica Hejkal 1/22/19*

*Quick FOCUS Conference Facts:* Nearly 12,000 college students from 626 campuses and several international locations attended the Collegiate Track, which discussed topics relevant to young adults. University of Nebraska-Lincoln brought the largest campus group with 325 students. Benedictine College had the second-largest group with 323 students.

More than 400 priests concelebrated daily Mass, including Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila (Denver) and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio (Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA). Priests heard more than 6,500 confessions during the five-day event, with 4,700 of those heard in just two hours during Adoration and Confession Night on Saturday evening.

Nearly 500 chaplains and campus ministers registered for the Campus Ministry Track, sharing insights

on creating vibrant campus ministries. More than 1,700 people joined the Lifelong Mission Track, which shared ideas, inspiration and resources on how to be missionary disciples in families, parishes and careers. That number included more than 800 FOCUS alumni and parishioners from more than 1,000 parishes.

FOCUS events have welcomed more than 78,000 attendees since the inaugural National Conference held in 1999, where 25 students came together to pray, deepen their Catholic faith and learn how to share Christ with others. The total number of SEEK 2019 registrants represents a 35 percent increase over the nearly 13,000 attendees who attended SEEK 2017, the last SEEK event held two years ago.

Sponsors for SEEK2019 included the Augustine Institute, Benedictine College, Franciscan University of Steubenville, Knights of Columbus, Our Sunday Visitor, Servants of Christ Jesus, The Catholic University of America Office of Graduate Studies and Word on Fire.

**During the 2018 – 2019 academic year, nearly 700 missionaries are serving full-time on 153 college campuses, located across 42 U.S. states and at five international locations.**

**Among these FOCUS Alumni, 732 have made decisions to pursue Catholic religious vocations.** By 2022, FOCUS expects — God willing — to have 75,000 students transitioned into many of America's 17,000+ Catholic parishes. FOCUS missionaries are typically recent college graduates who devote two or more years of their post-collegiate lives to reach out to peers on campus.

**YOU are welcome at the next national FOCUS event, SLS20 Dec. 30 – Jan. 3, 2020, in Phoenix!**  
Please check out: [Phoenixwww.SLS20.org](http://Phoenixwww.SLS20.org).



## Report of Father Calloway's Marian Talk at FOCUS Conference

I thought to share a summary of one of the talks I attended. Fr Donald Calloway, MIC, is from the Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. He has had one of those high impact early lives: before his conversion, he was a high school dropout, kicked out of Japan during his parents' employment there in the military, institutionalized twice, and thrown into jail multiple times for heavy drink and drug abuse. Since his was the only talk listed as Marian, I wanted to attend. The title of his talk was:

### **The Virgin Mary – The Masterpiece of God.**

Quoting from the brochure: "In this talk, Fr Calloway unpacks the wonder, mystery, and dignity of the Mother of God. God created his own mother and fashioned her to be a tender mother, a beautiful bride, and a lovely daughter. Her dignity is so great that God obeys her, saints honor her, and all the demons fear her!"

*Remember that Fr Calloway is speaking to the college age generation. These are my notes as Fr Calloway explained:*

Simply use reason to know what Jesus thinks. The world's first love was the term used by Bishop Fulton Sheen. Let's all imagine that you are God: Jesus is going to make *his own Mom* flawless and Immaculate. I'm going to write a book from Genesis to Revelations where her little foot crushes the face of the devil and all evil. Then I'll add perpetual virginity (like sunshine through a glass) and share my Mom with the whole world. Her name is to be found in ALL languages. O and of course, God's Mom won't die – as you don't mess with God! God is madly in love with his daz-zlingly beautiful Mother. Fr Calloway continues:

Please note the Madonna is the most painted picture in the world. God took up residency in the Madonna masterpiece he made. God made the sun spin like a yoyo for his mother

a hundred years ago at Fatima. She is simply the masterpiece of the Trinity. She is the one perfect, holy, and immaculate Mom. ...

In my research for books, I discovered Mama Mary's womb in the language Jesus and his Mother and St Joseph spoke (which was Aramaic) is where we think first of the Bread of Life. Many know that Bethlehem in Arabic means the House of Bread. But in Aramaic, Bethlehem literally means House of Meat. And we see the connection to Mary's God-child receiving her flesh in a manger in Bethlehem in the Holy Night. Isn't that awesome how God prepares every little detail?

Tonight you will each have a chance for confession. Let's look during this Christmas Season at the symbolism of Mary as Jesus' Mother who has to take care of his diapers. Yes, the God-Man had to wear diapers. As a first time Mom, Mary might have thought this is not just diapers, but a 7x70 amount of diapers that I have to clean up. I want to tell you: trust Mother Mary as the one who can completely clean you up, because she helps us to see confession as a spiritual diaper cleanup. We need confession, because we stink. God gives out free diapers. You can go free of charge to confession. St. Faustina and Padre Pio both smelled sin stench on souls.



You get a whole cleanup. Can we say, only those who love Mary go to confession now-a-days. Others don't! God offers such a new beginning in confession through Our Lady! Some of us here might say or think, well I hope I get the priest from Nigeria who won't really understand my English... Or maybe we say I just don't pray rosaries well, as I am distracted! Don't worry, look at it like this:



Keep trying! We give God butterfly kisses all too often, but Mary will make it into a great prayer and gift for her Son. Recall what Mary's touch did to St Juan Diego's bunch of roses.

Is there a way not to die? Sixteen years ago *The Washington Post* wrote an article on Mary entitled: Holy Moly – Fetal microchimerism. A woman who got sick continued living via the cells of her children living in her body. This broke through a new avenue in science that when a mother gets sick, all the children's cells fight for her in her body. This holds true for those little souls that are miscarried and those who are aborted. The killed baby's cells left in and grown into the mother's very body continue to fight for their mothers. I was so happy when I read about this.

Have you ever heard or experienced that moms have like a sixth sense? Well, actually she isn't just looking over your shoulder, she is in your shoulder. Your natural mother is living in you! Another expression we use is that "part of me died when Mom died" and again there is scientific evidence that this is true.

Before, during and after confession tonight, we will be having Exposition. The Blessed Mother gave Jesus his full manhood with a cellular exchange between only Jesus and Mary. Jesus Christ remains in the monstrance of Mary. Legend say the idols of Egypt fell when the Holy Family went by. For us we note: Mary never comes alone:

Mary won't decay as Jesus is in her. Mary never died a normal death like we must, because of sin. "Well played, God, well played!" (college expression that received applause). When I was ordained a friend made bumper stickers: *Wise Men still find him with his Mother*. We all love babies and want to eat them up – look at the treasure Mary offers us from her yes to the Incarnation so that God's plan for our Eucharist Lord could be realized. Don't ever walk away from Mary!"

You can imagine that the young college-age students were listening with rapt attention!

Blessings on your May, Jessica Swedzinski

This annual conference was held in Chicago at the Felician Sisters Convent under the theme: *Missionary Disciples – Intercultural Hearts*. I was invited to attend to represent the USCSI as a resource person.

The president, Sr. Maryann Seton Lopicollo, S.C. of Brooklyn, welcomed everyone at the opening session on Sunday, March 17, setting the tenor of the conference. She encouraged everyone to listen to their hearts, not only to their minds, when it comes to being open to different cultures. It is important to discern the nature of religious life in these times of changing demographics when more religious in the U.S. are coming from various cultures.

The main speaker was Sr. Theresa Maya, CCVI, Congregation Leader of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, and past president of LCWR.

Vicars are in the forefront of living with intercultural hearts in their work. Diversity in our American experience comes in the areas of culture, gender, religion, ethnicity, generation, region, politics, class, and race. The Church, at the very least, should be doing what corporate America is doing, namely, embracing and rejoicing in diversity.

She proposed that the future of religious life depends on our capacity to embrace intercultural living in three stages: we must notice the diversity, deepen our acceptance of diversity, and imagine what living together could be like. She pointed out that the more people have contact with their former culture, the more difficult it is to adapt to a new one.

This diversity and international flavor is coming to religious life as well. When we live in an international community we need to learn new things about other cultures and we need to unlearn (e.g. bias). "Imagining" is a way to heal. Sr. Theresa referred to God creating diversity and Jesus living in a diverse culture. The incarnation happened in diversity as well at Pentecost when it was realized that God was speaking through each one in his own way.

We have to intentionally work at cultivating an intercultural heart as missionary disciples. We need to cultivate both our unique identities as well as having relationships with others. When identity is too strong we have segregation. When relationships are too strong we have a melting pot and lose our identity. The ultimate goal is to balance the two, resulting in a multi-cultural community.

There are different stages of intercultural competency:

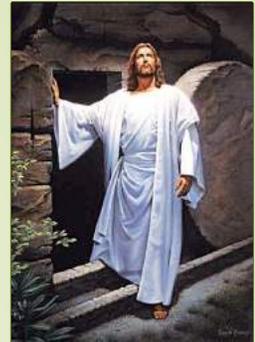
Denial	The claim that there is no difference among us.
Defense	Difference is bad, and I am better than others.
Minimize	Difference is not important.
Acceptance	I am open to accept differences.
Adaptation	I can include difference with empathy.
Integration	Differences are integrated, finding good in the diversity.

*International* cultures recognize the presence of other cultures.

*Multi-cultural* moves to co-existence among various cultures.

*Intercultural* describes the reality of mutually enriching each other with our differences.

We need a culture of *encounter* where we accompany, welcome, and encourage one another.



On Monday morning there was a panel with Mother Mary McGreevy, RSM, president of the Conference of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR), Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), and Fr. Hank Lemoncelli representing the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICL-SAL). The panel touched on various topics and also answered questions from the floor.

On Monday afternoon there was a panel of young sisters, authors of a book, "In Our Own Words." They spoke about the spirit of cooperation among communities, emphasizing communion rather than competition for vocations. Smaller communities are not necessarily bad; they can be more flexible.

Fr. Hank Lemoncelli then gave an update of current issues in CICL-SAL. He noted that this is a time of purification for a new resurrection in the Church and a call to holiness and conversion. He spoke about the new document on contemplative life, *Vultum Dei*, and the instructions that followed in *Cor Orans*.

Tuesday was devoted to more practical and business items. The Most Reverend Marc Bartosic, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, celebrated the closing liturgy. A banquet and evening entertainment by a Gospel choir brought the conference to an end. *Marcia Vinje*

## Three Departed Hear the Redeemer's Call Into Eternity ...

### Please remember in your prayers:



**María Del Rosario Sánchez Martínez** (Sary) was born in 1954 in Puerto Rico. Along with teaching in elementary and middle schools, she served nine years with the sisters of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity (one of the two religious congregations in the Missionary Cenacle Family) in her home town of Cabo Rojo, before she must leave to care for family. She made final profession with the Blessed Trinity Missionary Institute in 2006 and also became a member of the Missionary Cenacle Apostolate (one of the lay branches of the Missionary Cenacle Family).

In 2013, Sary was elected **General Custodian of the Blessed Trinity Missionary Institute**, a position she held until her passing in September 20, 2018. Her servant leadership was a gift and blessing; skilled in helping others to reflect upon their own vocations, she was as a model for all of us as “a power for good” that our founder, Father Thomas A. Judge, challenged the members to become. Theresa Panzera is acting as the General Custodian for the remainder of her term.



**Pauline Charest** passed on December 27, 2018, at Three Rivers PQ Canada. Born in 1940, she was a member of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate for 54 years. You may remember her as a speaker at one of the USCSI annual meetings in San Francisco. At that time she was **President of the Canadian Conference of Secular Institutes**. She leaves fourteen brothers and sisters in mourning. Her funeral was held at the Ste-Famille Church on January 11, 2019.



**Beatrice Caron, former president and member of the Executive Committee**, passed away on April 15, 2019. This year, Beatrice was celebrating her 50th Anniversary as a member of the Secular Institute Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate.

Born on January 18, 1937, Beatrice was employed as an office manager for Metropolitan Life Insurance Company for over 30 years. Beatrice had great faith and was very active in parish life. She lived in the home of her parents at Saco, Maine, and will be remembered by many as kind, fun loving, peaceful, and deeply committed to her faith, institute, family, and neighborhood. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Tuesday, April 23, 2019, at Most Holy Trinity Church, Saco. Burial followed in St. Joseph's Cemetery, Biddeford.

Bea lived these five **Attitudes of Life**:

Live in the Presence of God in the present moment,  
Abstention from destructive criticism—be positive,  
Abstention from useless complaint—welcome all events  
Being of Service to others, and  
To be a Peacemaker in all circumstances.  
Fr. Louis-Marie Parent, OMI, Founder

**May they rest in peace...**



## Noteworthy News Briefs

### ACTION ALERT:

\* This month, boxes of *USCSI vocation materials* were mailed to the following **Vicars for Religious**: Archdioceses of Chicago, Los Angeles, Newark, San Antonio, and Washington (DC), as well as the Dioceses of Brooklyn, Joliet, Lafayette, and Rockville Center. If your diocese isn't listed, contact your Vicar for Religious/Consecrated Life and inquire if we can send materials (and to which exact mailing address). Email info to: [jessica@schrsmary.org](mailto:jessica@schrsmary.org)

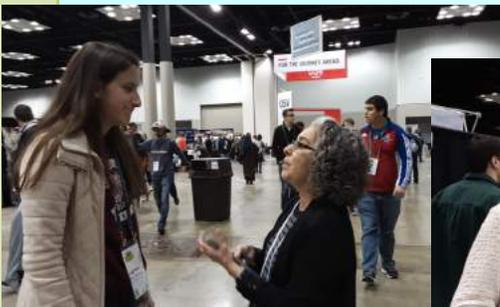
\* A certificate of appreciation was presented to **CLAUDETTE CYR** [1 000 hours of volunteer work] in recognition of her dedication, commitment, and services rendered to Saint Mary's Hospital, Waterbury, CT. Her responsibility is to welcome people who come for blood work, examinations, X-rays, etc., serving as a guide using English, French or Spanish.

\* "Having considered this Pope's holiness of life, witnessed to by his works and words, and having taken account of the great influence of his apostolic ministry for the Church throughout the whole world, Pope Francis, assenting to the petitions and desires of the People of God, has decreed that **the celebration of Pope Saint Paul VI, should be inserted into the Roman Calendar on 29 May with the rank of optional memorial.**" [Pope Paul VI, Giovanni Battista Montini, 9/26/1897-8/6/1978, was ordained to the priesthood on 29 May 1920.] *Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 25 January 2019, on the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle. Robert Card. Sarah, Prefect.* At our national meeting we will speak about the movement to have Pope Saint Paul VI declared the patron saint of secular institutes.

Photos from the USCSI Vocation Booth at **Seek 2019** sponsored by **FOCUS** at Indianapolis, January 3-7, 2019:



Jessica, Pope John Paul II, Terrie, Monica, Pope Benedict XVI, Joan, Pope Francis, and Kathy



The Secular Institute, Madonna della Strada held a Mass of Oblation and Anniversary Celebrations on April 10, 2019. Archbishop Kenneth D.O. Richards, DD, from Kingston, two Archbishops and eight priests joined the evening celebration at Stella Maris Parish in Kingston, Jamaica. We congratulate the First Oblation of Odette Creary; 30<sup>th</sup> of Shirley Thomas; 40<sup>th</sup> of Marlene Holman; and 50<sup>th</sup> of Pearline Archer. All to the greater honor and glory of God as salt, light, and leaven in the midst of the world! On April 13, 2019, Judy Salcedo will be celebrating her 20<sup>th</sup> with the Institute.



Left to right:

Shirley Thomas,  
Director General  
Maria Christine,  
Regional Director  
Judy Salcedo,  
Odette Creary, Sister is a friend of  
Odette, Pearline  
Archer and Most  
Rev. Richards,  
Archbishop of  
Kingston.

☞ St. Angela encouraged her spiritual family to cherish being “*insieme* – together.” The tenth triennial North American Ursuline Convocation will draw **Ursulines – Company and Order – and their Associates, educators, co-ministers, and friends** to St. Louis July 25 to 28, 2019, for prayer, sharing, stimulating presentations, and fun. Key-note speaker is Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI, LCWR past-president. Since the first Convocation (Cincinnati 1992), “Angela’s Family” has expanded to include more and more dedicated Associates. They share close bonds and Merician spirituality. Lay educators are the heirs and the stewards of the Sisters’ educational mission. Merician spirituality is the foundation of their service in Ursuline schools. Sisters in ministries on the social and spiritual margins have engaged collaborators. These committed lay people seek the Merician sources that nourish the Ursulines. All these parts of Angela’s family will be represented.

### 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.

### Executive Committee of the United States Conference of Secular Institutes serving you are:

President: Marcia Vinje [marcia.schoenstatt@yahoo.com](mailto:marcia.schoenstatt@yahoo.com)

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Councilor: Claudette Cyr [cfcyr@yahoo.com](mailto:cfcyr@yahoo.com)

***It’s your Mountaineer, please contribute from your Institute***

The RECongress 2019 (held March 22-24 at Anaheim, CA) will be featured in our Summer *Mountaineer*.

The next due dates for the *Mountaineer* are June 1, 2019, October 1, 2019 and December 1, 2019