

The United States Conference of Secular Institutes

The Mountaineer

August 2019



Volume 12, Issue 2

Dear Friends,

Heart Speaks to Heart. This is the theme of our coming annual national meeting, obviously inspired by divine providence. Just a few days after our executive committee had chosen this theme, it was announced that Pope Francis had approved the canonization of John Henry Cardinal Newman. The cardinal's motto was:

Cor ad cor loquitor, that is, "heart speaks to heart."

Now the canonization date has been set for just a month after our national meeting; it will take place in Rome on October 13, 2019.

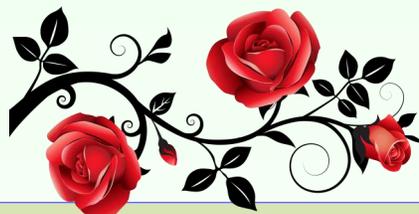
One can almost feel the breeze of the Holy Spirit as he swishes by with his wisdom. Such "coincidences" are messages from God that we want to take seriously, so let us meditate a bit on the truth that one heart speaks to another heart. This is a beautiful definition of prayer, that deep connection between God and the human heart, sometimes a unity that needs no words. Once in a while we might be graced by the prayer of just relaxing in the presence of the loving Father, feeling a bond that expresses the reality that we belong together, Creator and creature, Parent and child, Mercy and misery. The smaller cannot exist without the greater.

Our consecrated life can also be described as "heart speaks to heart." When the Lord called you to be his very own in a special, exclusive way, that was his heart speaking to your heart. Usually such a calling grows slowly, almost unperceptively, just as love grows between a man and woman called to marriage. A few may have a dramatic, instant insight, but is not that "spiritual explosion" just the moment when a person comes to the realization of what love has been growing slowly?

Then there is the time when you found the right institute. Maybe you searched and tried out a few. Perhaps you knew only one. But there came that moment when you felt, "This is home. This is where I belong. Here is where I can secure my way in life, or perhaps, here is where I can become a saint." That is also the heart of a charism speaking to the heart of a candidate.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting in Marytown, at Libertyville, Illinois, on September 13-15, where we can continue the conversation of heart speaking to heart.

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



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FEATURED SECULAR INSTITUTE MEMBER:

Cathy McDonnell from Stanton, California



For families, for the sick, for children
And for the aged who are abandoned:
We ask you for the gift of vocations.

You know how much the world
Today wounds our hearts,
How difficult it is to listen to Your
voice. You know our frailties
And our attraction to the joy of this
earth: Talk, call, shout your love, give
Your Spirit so that the chosen are un-
able to resist You.

Lord, give courage, infuse strength,
Grant certainty of Your love

And the meaning of their consecration to our
priests and to those who have answered
Your call to consecration.

Divine Redeemer, it is Your will that some hearts
Understand and live Your sacrificial love for souls.
Bring forth men and women
Who can hear Your "I am thirsty" of the cross
And empower them to give themselves without limit
to your mysterious plan.

Yes, Lord, grant us many consecrated people
And keep them faithful to You so that
When they meet You face to face,
They will come to You consumed by love. Amen.

During Lent 2018 and through examining my con-
science nightly, I was deeply struck with the 5th
Commandment – Thou shall not kill! I had to ask the
hard question, in what way was I killing myself?

In truth, I was harming myself by
poor eating habits that if not dramati-
cally changed, would ultimately
shorten my life. I needed to make a
course correction.

About that time of reflection, I be-
came aware of a ketogenic weight
reduction program with proven re-
sults, a few blocks from my office. I enrolled, worked
the program, and in nine months lost 70#. I feel
much better physically, emotionally, and spiritually.



Working as a hospital risk manager is my small por-
tion of the vineyard where Our Lord has placed me
as a Secular Institute member - an Apostolic Oblate.
It is both a challenge and a joy! Jesus nourishes me
each morning at the Eucharist and I am confident I
do not perform my work alone. No two days have
the same appointments or challenges. I have learned
to consult the Master when faced with difficult di-
lemmas that exceed my human limitations. In every
case, Jesus has responded to me through giving me
additional time by cancelling meetings, providing
insight into a problem, or patience to see the difficult
day through to the end.

I have come to learn that the gift of consecration is a
gift from Jesus to those whom I work with. I bring
HIS presence to the work place and the responsibility
to live my vocation more deeply is what Jesus is ask-
ing of me.

My favorite prayer is written by our Founder, Bishop
William Giaquinta, entitled: **For Consecrated People**

Lord Jesus, You are the One called by the Father.
Born of a consecrated Virgin,
You have always longed to have
Consecrated people beside You.
Return into our midst with
your gaze that loves and calls.

We ask this for the sake of our brothers and sisters
Who today, more than ever before
Need consecrated people.

Being more aware of who created me and my responsibility to be mindful to care for my physical well being as well as my spiritual life allows me to be more available for the apostolate with the energy Jesus desires.

During Holy Week, I found that a non urgent meeting was scheduled for Good Friday afternoon. I planned to take the afternoon off to pray, but felt the need to address the purpose and timing of such a meeting for the others. Challenging others to "do the right thing" is not an easy task when personal agendas and efficiencies dictate work flow. The meeting took place, I was not present, but the question was asked and argument put forth.

I pause and wonder how often have I been insensitive to God's timing in my life. It may not be a meeting on Good Friday, but I am sure there have been times when "doing the right thing" was not convenient and I capitulated to the winds that blew that day. I learn to forgive and to see myself in my brothers and sisters with whom I work. This self awareness is one of the many graces of living as a consecrated member of a secular institute in the world.

Thanks be to God! Cathy McDonnell, June 2019



Cathy gathering with others at a parish fish fry, Stanton CA.

Assumption of Mary

August 15, 2019



Solemn Profession of Vows: Joan Christine Patten, Apostolic Oblate

I am in awe at God's plan of love and deeply grateful as I recall my journey of formation in the Institute of the Apostolic Oblates.

On June 15, 2019, I professed the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and the promise of apostolate as an Apostolic Oblate Forever! The ceremony took place at St. Philip Benizi Church in Fullerton, CA. We were blessed to have several members of our Institute from various states, my family,

many priests, and our friends and Pro Sanctity members.

I am grateful for God's faithfulness and abundant gifts He has poured upon me and my Institute these past years.

Let us continue to thank the Lord for His tender care and divine providence and ask Him for many more vocations for the sake of our brothers and sisters! Joan Patten, AO



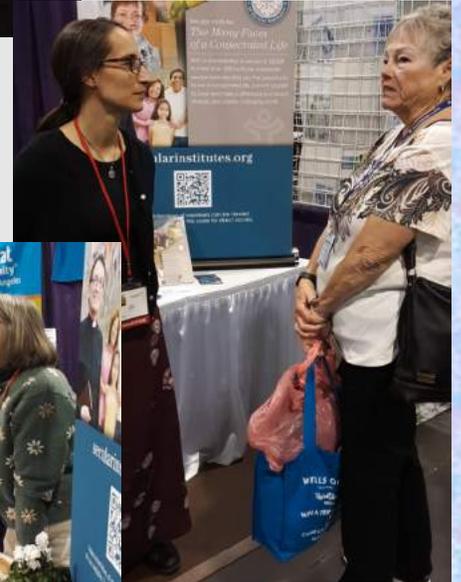
Congratulations
Joan (far left)

RECongress Snapshots, Anaheim Convention Center

March 22-24, 2019
USCSI Vocation
Promotion Booth Staffers



Working to advance our cultural concept of service through the many charisms of the Holy Spirit in religious education!



Bishop Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD, takes a moment to speak with delegates from his Diocese of Orange.



Send O Lord, laborers into the field and spare your people! Grant secular institutes the grace needed to revitalize your Pilgrim Church!

*Here is your personal invitation to join the
USCSI Booth at the annual spring*

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress

"Live Mercy - Be Holy"

"Vive la misericordia y la santidad"

**February 20, 2020 - Youth Day
February 21-23, 2020**

Location: Anaheim Convention Center

800 West Katella Ave, Anaheim, Calif. 92802

This is across from Disneyland and Disney California Adventure

Consider coming to a world event with more than 25,000 delegates and helping at our USCSI booth to inform others of the value of a Secular Institute Vocation!

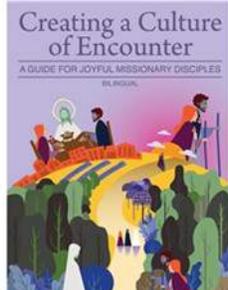
www.RECongress.org



***Kindly check your calendar
if you can attend
The USCSI National Meeting
from September 13-15, 2019,
at the Marytown Retreat Center.***

***You are needed!
Text/call Jessica at
262-244-9329***

NEWS BRIEFS



The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) announces the publishing of *Creating a Culture of Encounter: A Guide for Joyful Missionary Disciples* for use by parishes and communities of faith around the country.

This Spanish/English guide will help Catholics live out the call of Jesus to meet those on the peripheries with the Good News of the Gospel for their lives. It offers an organized five-session parish encounter process to help small groups to dig deeper into the Church's evangelizing mission.

In each session, participants take up a new aspect of Jesus' encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus and focus on a different element of the evangelical call to spread the Gospel, inspired by Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*. The five-session guide invites participants to See, Judge, Act, Celebrate, and take Missionary Action to follow the pastoral circle process.

◆ On July 8, 2019, The Holy Father appointed new members of the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life. For the first time women were included and among them a principal officer of a secular institute. Olga Krizova is president general of the Secular Institute of Volunteers of Don Bosco and a former president of the World Conference of Secular Institutes. (Marcia met her in Rome in 2016.) Others included the superior general of the Daughters of Charity of Saint Vincent de Paul, which is a Society of Apostolic Life. So it appears there is an effort to include different forms of consecrated life in the Congregation.

◆ Looking Ahead: Invitation for the next CMIS CONVOCATION was received: According to article 10 of our *Statutes*, the General Assembly of the CMIS meets every four years. The last one was held in Rome in August 2016. The next one will be held on August 21-22, 2020, in Avila, Spain.

The Executive Council of the CMIS is inviting all General Responsibles and the Presidents of national/continental Conferences of Secular Institutes to this next Assembly.

The theme of the General Assembly will be: **The Service of Authority in Secular Institutes.** The Agenda also includes:

- the report of the Executive Council concerning CMIS activities during the last four years;
- the financial report over the last four years;
- the election of a new Executive Council.

The General Assembly will be preceded by an important Congress that will take place on August 18-20, 2020, also in Avila, Spain. The theme of the Congress: “Let's get out there, it's now our time” will include three days of work and reflection together on the following subjects:

- a great change of epoch ;
- the necessary practice of discernment ;
- the courage of prophecy today.

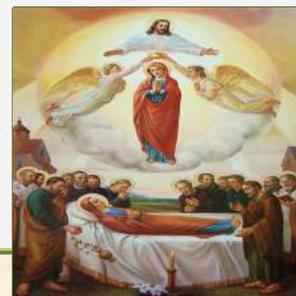
◆ Father Alexandre Awi de Mello, a member of the Schoenstatt Fathers in Brazil, has a book, a best seller and a treasure, already in its third edition that has been released in Spanish and Portuguese (German coming soon, yet little interest from English publishers), about Pope Francis' encounters with Mary.



“*She is My Mother*” contains the Holy Father's testimonies about his love of Mary – “his mother” – gathered during a long interview complemented perhaps by the most complete collection of Pope Francis'

Marian prayers. To learn more about how the book came to be, check out:

The Marian Library Newsletter, International Marian Research Institute, U of Dayton, Issue No. 63, Summer 2015.



NEWS BRIEFS CONTINUED...

- ◆ Take time to check out some of our USCSI institute member websites: **prosantcity.net** or **simkc.org**. Start at secularinstitutes.org and click on DIRECTORY to browse at your leisure!
- ◆ **Rev Leo Patalinghug of the Voluntas Dei Institute** has a social media impact, writes cookbooks, offers parish events and pilgrimages, among many other events he is involved with. Check out his website:



Next USCSI Vocation Promotion Booth Staff Request is for mid-November at the NCYC in Indianapolis and at the end of December in Phoenix at FOCUS.

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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www.secularinstitutes.org / www.cmis-int.org/en/

It's your Mountaineer, please contribute from your Institute

Who could be our featured Secular Institute Member from your institute for our FALL MOUNTAINEER?

The next due date for the Mountaineer: Sept 30, 2019