

United States Conference of Secular Institutes

The Mountaineer

President's Message

Dear Friends,

Christ is risen; He is truly risen! He is victorious over death and darkness. What a gift the Easter message is for a world at war with Covid-19. Doesn't this feel like a time when we really need to see him in the clouds of heaven, reassuring us of his ever-present love and power? Then look up, because he is there.

Certainly, these are challenging times. Through the light of faith, we know that Almighty God is in charge of the situation and that he can make good come out of any disaster. We trust that he is educating his people and leading us to something better, even if we are unable to articulate what that might be.

During these days it is important that we who have faith overcome fear and anxiety. These are normal reactions, our instinct for survival kicking in. People fear getting sick or even dying; they are afraid of infecting others and facing financial difficulties. Such anxiety narrows our freedom which we claim as children of God. Instead, try to use that energy to turn the fear into concern: concern for our own health and concern for others; concern for spiritual growth and conversion; concern for the sick and those who might die alone. Let us pray for the angels to be with all these people.

This is a time in which the Father calls us to rest in him. Such resting in prayer will bring greater calm and peace as we find the truly important things – and persons – in life. Every person of peace has a profound effect on the whole Body of Christ. This is a peace that transcends a stay at home order or social distancing. This can be our apostolic deed during this time.

We might also find an invitation to share more closely in Christ's suffering so that others might reap the benefits of his resurrection. Are you willing to say yes to the invitation? Many are, especially health care workers and first responders, our heroes of today. After all, war begets heroes.

Wishing you the Easter graces of new life and deep joy,

Marcia Vinje

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Pope Francis' PRAYER TO MARY During Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain,
keeping your faith firm.

You, Salvation of the Roman People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection.
Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge,
Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties
of we who are in trial, but deliver us
from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.
Amen.

*During this time of no holy Masses, a prayer
to receive spiritual Communion:*

My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed
Sacrament. I love you above all things and long for
you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you
sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I
embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Never
permit me to be separated from you. Mary my Mother,
love Jesus in me. Amen.

Published by Catholic News Service, March 11, 2020

USCSI HOSTS BOOTH AT ANOTHER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONGRESS

Anna Brizzi
& below:
Julie Dinise,
Kolbe Mis-
sionaries
from West
Covina, CA,
on Feb 21-23
at the Ana-
heim Conv
Center, CA.



US Nuncio
stopped at
USCSI booth.
Below: four
Apostolic
Oblates are:
Cathy
McDonnell,
Joan Patten,
Renee Jarecki
and Leela
Sebastian.



Hello everyone - my name is Christine French and I am thrilled to be in formation with the Apostolic Oblates to become an External Apostolic Oblate in Omaha, Nebraska.

I typically get to be at the house of formation/retreat center in Elkhorn, Nebraska, two to three times a week for meetings, prayer, times with the community, and our shared apostolate. As an External Oblate I will need to continue to work and manage my own home but have the blessing of a shared charism with Internal Apostolic Oblates that live in community and have missional availability.

Our primary apostolate is the Pro-Sanctity Movement. We are called to spread the universal call to holiness and brotherhood.

As someone that spent time away from the Church when I was in high school, I know the emptiness of living life away from God and recognize that same pain in many people I interact with. **The Lord in**

his goodness has always used my being responsible for others in order to help me grow. This is very true of my current job as Campus Minister at Skutt Catholic High School in Omaha, NE, which I have had since August 2015. It was shortly after taking the job that I was introduced to the Apostolic Oblates since we host two retreats a year at their retreat center in Elkhorn. An Oblate became my spiritual director that September and insisted that I start taking **a ½ hour of silent prayer time with the Lord each day. That habit of prayer, which I was not consistent with until about seven months after I started, has changed my life dramatically for the better and influences every aspect of my life.** It was not until I had a friend move in to discern with the Oblates that I even became aware that Secular Institutes exist in the Church and that this group of women I'd come to love were in a Secular Institute.

After starting to formally discern with the Apostolic Oblates, my spiritual director on my silent retreat had me pray with a prayer from Bishop Giaquinta, "Let me Quench Your Thirst" in response to this struggle I've had regarding the salvation of others. I have been asking the Lord how I could ever be happy with him forever in heaven if the people that I love, that I've served, my family, and my students are not there too. **I have seen a gradual transition in my life in which evangelization and drawing others to holiness has become, "my great ideal, the only ideal of my life"** and I was so moved by that part in the prayer. Parts of it are what I have believed and desired for years and other parts are what I am asking the Lord for. That prayer was a huge confirmation to me that I am going to the correct place – I long for everyone to be saved and live lives of holiness. And I know that needs to start with my own holiness. The Lord keeps drawing me closer through my involvement with the Oblates, so that is where I want to be and to rest.

I also LOVE everything Bishop Giaquinta writes about spiritual maximalism. I have always had a personality that dove completely into whatever I'm involved in and I recognize now how that is a God given gift and will help others when I channel my efforts how God intends. I know that the Lord has created me with many gifts and talents that fit very well with the life and apostolate of the Apostolic Oblates here in Nebraska. I love working with youth, in particular girls, and I really enjoy working retreats, camps, chaperoning pilgrimages/service trips, and other times of spiritual reflections. **I had experience with these before even meeting the Institute and have grown in all of these immensely since meeting the Oblates.**





I was thrilled to meet other consecrated women when we worked a table for the United States Conference of Secular Institutes at the FOCUS Student Leadership Summit. [Christine took the bus trip with University students from Omaha, NE, to Phoenix, AZ.] I explained all day long using a loaf of bread and flour tortillas how we as members of secular institutes are called to be leaven in the world. I would ask the passersby of our booth: Do you have a minute for a one question quiz? And just for answering, you can enter our drawing for these yummy prizes. Showing them a loaf of sliced white bread and a package of tortillas my question was: What is the one ingredient that is missing from the tortillas that is found in white bread? You guessed it: LEAVEN.

I would appreciate prayer for my formation process and my parents. I will continue to be praying with and for all of you. God Bless, ~Christine French~



God Calls Consecrated Individuals... by Cathi Douglas

Secular Institutes received sunny acclaim from the Diocese of Orange in Garden Grove, California. Our gratitude to *Orange County CATHOLIC* for permission: <https://occatholic.com/lives-of-holiness/>



God Calls Consecrated Individuals to Bring Salvation to the 'Real' World By Cathi Douglas 2/3/2020

←L to R: Bishop Olmsted, Kathy, Donna, Joan, and Jessica

In his 2019 homily for the World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis called consecrated life a prophetic vision in the church needed in today's world. He said **consecrated life "is a vision of what is important to embrace in order to have joy: Jesus."** But the Holy Father was not referring to priests, sisters, or other members of traditional religious communities, but to men and women who commit themselves to consecration and a spiritual lifestyle – but live, work, and function in the world at large.

Joan Patten, AO, delegate for consecrated life in the Diocese of Orange's Vocations Office and a member of the Institute of Apostolic Oblates, grew up with a traditional understanding of sisters and brothers and was attracted to the joy, simplicity, and life of prayer those communities offered. Yet, she sought something different.

When she discovered the institute, she felt called to its mission to promote prayer and holiness. “I understood in prayer how God is inviting me to love and receive His love in a way that’s full, total, and life-giving,” she says. She joined the institute in 2007. “I wasn’t looking for this life and hadn’t heard of it before, but I found myself falling in love with God in this particular way,” recalls Patten, 37, who lives at the oblates’ Pro Sanctity Center in Fullerton, California. “I felt that God was inviting me to consider giving my life to Him.”

Consecrated life as described by Pope Pius XII in 1947 takes many forms; consecrated individuals include among others, hermits, consecrated virgins, and members of secular institutes like Patten. While priests, sisters, monks, and nuns traditionally live and work separately from the ‘real’ or secular world, “the whole point [of consecrated life] is to combine the two realities of the temporal or secular world and the Church,” Patten explains. Living independently or in small communities, members of secular institutes often own homes and cars and work at jobs in secular fields rather than specific church-related ministries. Members of secular institutes promise themselves to God for life. They take the traditional evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience, and their consecration requires years of discernment culminating in final vows/bonds.

A member of the Caritas Christi Secular Institute living in Phoenix, Arizona, **Donna Kurgan**, 58, says consecrated life poses issues as well as offering blessings. “Every day I’m challenged by Christ as to how I’m going to live my life, walk that walk – really listening to that little voice inside and walking with it and hearing it.” Kurgan notes that in law enforcement you have two kinds of police officers – those in uniform and undercover agents. “We’re like undercover agents,” she says. “In day-to-day situations, I bring Christ to the world as I am.”

Kathy Tierney, 53, of Indianapolis, Indiana, is principal officer and formator for the De Sales Secular Institute

and a registered dietician nutritionist who found herself in her mid-30s not sure about the kind of life she wanted to lead. “I’d been reading about Teresa of Avila and Clare of Assisi, who wrote about being a bride of Christ,” Tierney remembers. “I felt that Jesus wanted me to be His bride. It seemed very fulfilling to me. He led me to that decision and when I made a vow to Him, I felt great peace.” She views her celibacy as a gift from Christ. “God led me to this life,” she says. “I don’t feel alone because I’m very aware of Jesus. I think about Him a lot, talk to Him, and He is present with me.”

Jessica Swedzinski, 61, of Staten Island, New York, is a member of the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary, formed in Germany in 1926, and serves on the national board of the executive committee for the U.S. Conference of Secular Institutes. “We have about 260 institutes around the world – 18 in the United States – and 32,000 members worldwide,” Swedzinski says. “We are called to transform the world from within.”

“We don’t only call people to come to church but can meet them for coffee at Starbucks during work breaks,” she notes. “That’s where we want to be and where we make the difference – in pastoral, educational, or money-making professions, it’s all open territory. “We live our sacred bonds right where people are working, relating, praying, and eating.”

That so many Catholics know little about consecrated life is unsurprising, Patten says. “There are so many different forms and ways to give your life to God. There are many needs in the world and the Holy Spirit has many ideas about particular charisms for people living in certain times.” For Catholics considering consecrated life, Swedzinski offers some advice: “Take time to pray to Jesus because it’s His call, never our call. Despite what the world throws at us, time is short, and we need individuals to make good, strong decisions for eternity. Otherwise, a life like this would make no sense.”



Important Notice:
***Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic
the Executive Committee of the USCSI
has cancelled the National Meeting
from Sept 18-20, 2020, in Danville, CA***

How to help loved ones with Alzheimer's stay connected with God

How to help loved ones with Alzheimer's stay connected with God

Edifa | March 6, 2020 | Aleteia.org

With memory loss comes difficulty in communicating — not only with loved ones, but also with the Lord. As consecrated seculars, we sometimes overlook the obvious with our members. We are grateful for this article from the Aleteia News Service. Please sign up for more articles at www.Aleteia.org

The loss of short-term memory, changes in behavior, and marked emotional shifts due to a loss of inhibitions are all typical symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Loved ones are then faced with many questions, including those that are faith-related: **How can I help my loved one keep their spiritual bearings?** Here's some advice from Dr. Eric Kiledjian, geriatrician and Alzheimer's specialist:

What does the person with Alzheimer's need?

Dr. Eric Kiledjian: The basics. The attention of others, especially their loved ones, and to be treated with respect. The person is rapidly confronted by a personality fragmentation. For example, when they're having a meal with their children and grandchildren and no one speaks to them. In this particular case, you can place your hand on theirs, look them in the eyes, ask if they're enjoying their food, how they're feeling. Without bombarding them with questions, it's important to affirm their presence, that they exist.

Basically, above all what the person needs is trust. Of course, we tend to avoid trusting them because they forget everything and do silly things. But just because they're unpredictable doesn't mean we have to lose all trust in them. We often see this in certain families that try to — and I'm not exaggerating — just park the person with Alzheimer's somewhere, when it might be better just to keep them away from dangerous objects.

I keep telling families they should encourage without harassing. Did the person used to like doing crossword puzzles but can't manage them anymore? If they still enjoy it, do it with them. That will give them pleasure. On the other hand, on the pretext of stimulating their memory, making them read a newspaper article and then quizzing them on it is doomed to failure. If there's no pleasure in it, don't do it. **Caregivers and family members have a key role to play: a caring, warm, and reassuring circle around them is the best medicine.**

What does the person with Alzheimer's experience on a spiritual level?

That's clearly a big mystery. But there are indications that suggest there's a lot going on. For example, as self-control diminishes, some people, even when they can't remember their date of birth, can spontaneously start reciting the *Our Father*. There's a clear indication that through these prayers learned in childhood there remains a sensitivity to the divine.

However, the person with Alzheimer's perceives God less and less well. That's where the role of their loved ones comes in. As the person's autonomy lessens — right down to their relationship with God — their loved ones play the role of tutor. In the same way that helping them wash themselves encourages the person to copy gestures they struggle to do themselves, we can do the same with prayer. I'm referring here to a spiritual support that can be communicated through the most simple things: reciting a prayer, singing a hymn, lighting a candle, making the sign of the cross.

Can we really talk about the spiritual life?

Of course, and now more than ever! The disease erases a number of filters, such as rationality. As a result, our desires — including spiritual ones — become uninhibited. This spiritual aspiration is clearly present. They may not exclaim, "I need to be loved!" but their behavior (anxiety, cries, fearful looks) can manifest this need. **If certain forms of religious practice fall by the wayside, the spiritual instinct itself lives on.**

Who can accompany the person with Alzheimer's in their spiritual life?

In my experience, that's more or less the responsibility of the family. Unfortunately, the person gradually stops attending gatherings and loses contact with their community, parish, or otherwise. **The family circle — the spouse, the children [friends] — must then take the initiative with private prayers.** Besides a Mass celebrated at home or a visit from an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, a brief but meaningful moment can be organized to maintain the link with God. Priests sensitive to the illness are often good at ways to accompany this spiritual life. I'm thinking in particular of the Anointing of the Sick, which can be a beautiful interpersonal act. After the death of a loved one, relatives have often told me how they regularly recited the Our Father together as the illness progressed. And they all tell me how much they could feel their loved one's joy.

How can I help a person with Alzheimer's on a spiritual level?

The spiritual needs of people in good health involve all sorts of activities and choices: meeting friends at Mass, going to another parish that suits them better, etc. For those with Alzheimer's, their needs are much simpler, more straightforward. But love is prime. So much so that, even if it's from a professional caregiver, it's just as helpful as if it came from a family member. That often shocks loved ones who feel a kind of emotional competition — and yet, it's true. Gradually, the person doesn't know quite who they are anymore; it's the attention and contact with others that sustains their existence. That may be more a question of emotional need, but it's linked to a spiritual need. God created us as composite beings, in a relationship to him with our whole person: emotional, spiritual, psychological. That's why he counts on us to sustain them all.

The loved one acts as a kind of mediator between God and the person with Alzheimer's, reassuring them that they still exist in the eyes of God. It's their responsibility to encourage the person on the spiritual level. It would be a mistake to wait for your loved one to take the initiative. God is present wherever there is empathy and self-giving. One way of drawing the person onto spiritual ground is to make time for them: giving of oneself is a way of making God's presence felt to the person.

As soon as one is caring and attentive, one becomes a spiritual mediator. When it concerns a believer, we need to take the initiative and put things into words, to speak about God. It can be very simple: for example, by asking, "Would you like us to say the Our Father together?" But be careful the question doesn't communicate any anxiety on your part. Some spouses go a little too far: through concern that their spouse no longer prays, they try to force them to go to Mass. Spiritual mediation must always remain benevolent.

I should also emphasize that the caregiver needs to know how to recharge their own batteries if they're to be a source of support. Living with this disease is a very heavy burden to bear. And no one gets through it alone. One of the best things we all can do for people with Alzheimer's is to provide support for their family members and caregivers.

Interview by Anna Latron



Pope's message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Pope Francis sends a message to mark the 57th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, celebrated on 3 May, 2020.

By **Francesca Merlo** -taken from www.vatican.va/news

Pope Francis begins his message by recalling a letter he wrote last year in which he chose four key words – *pain, gratitude, encouragement, and praise* – as a way of “thanking priests and supporting their ministry.”

Today, he says, those same words can “be addressed to the whole people of God,” alongside a passage from Matthew’s Gospel that recounts the “remarkable experience of Jesus and Peter during a stormy night on the Sea of Galilee” (cf. Mt 14:22-33). Pope Francis says, “After the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus told his disciples to get into the boat and precede him to the other shore, while he took leave of the people.” He explains: “The image of the disciples crossing the lake can evoke our own life’s journey.”

The boat of our lives slowly advances, restlessly looking for a safe haven and prepared to face the perils and promises of the sea, yet at the same time trusting that the helmsman will ultimately keep us on the right course. At times, though, the boat can drift off course, misled by mirages, not the lighthouse that leads it home, and be tossed by the tempests of difficulty, doubt, and fear.

Something similar happens to those who, called to follow the Teacher of Nazareth, have to undertake a crossing and abandon their own security to become the Lord’s disciples, says the Pope. However the Gospel reminds us that “in the midst of this challenging journey we are not alone.”

Gratitude

Francis begins with the word *gratitude*, which he says “is the first word of vocation.” “How we find fulfillment in life is more than a decision we make as isolated individuals; above all else, it is a response to a call from on high,” he says. Returning to the metaphor of the boat he explains:

The Lord points out our destination on the opposite shore and he grants us the courage to board the boat. In calling us, he becomes our helmsman; he accompanies and guides us; he prevents us from running aground on the shoals of indecision and even enables us to walk on surging waters.”

Every vocation is born from the Love of the Lord, says the Pope, and “we will succeed in discovering and embracing our vocation once we open our hearts in gratitude and perceive the passage of God in our lives.”

Encouragement

When the disciples see Jesus walking towards them on the sea, they first think that he is a ghost and are filled with fear, says the Pope. Jesus immediately reassures them, saying: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear” (Mt 14:27). “This, then, is the second word I wish to offer you: *encouragement*.”

Often, says Pope Francis, “certain *ghosts* that trouble our hearts” hinder our journeys. When we are called to leave safe shores and embrace a state of life – like marriage, ministerial priesthood, consecrated life – our first reaction is often from the *ghost of disbelief*. “Surely, this vocation is not for me! Can this really be the right path? Is the Lord really asking me to do this?”

Courage

The Lord knows that these fundamental life choices call for courage, says the Pope. He knows the doubts we face and so he reassures us with those words: “Take heart, it is I; have no fear!” We know in faith that he is present and comes to meet us, that he is ever at our side even amid stormy seas, he says. This knowledge, adds the Pope, “sets us free from the interior discouragement that hold us back from experiencing the beauty of our vocation.”

Fatigue

Moving onto the final word, the Pope explains that what he called ‘pain’ in his letter last year, this year he is translating

as *fatigue*. With every call comes responsibility, he says. The Lord's call places our lives at the service of the Gospel, "yet, like Saint Peter, our desire and enthusiasm coexist with our failings and fears," he adds.

"Whenever fatigue or fear make us start to sink, Jesus holds out his hand to us. He gives us the enthusiasm we need to live our vocation with joy and fervor," says the Pope: *When Jesus at last boards the boat, the winds die down and the waves are calmed. Here we have a beautiful image of what the Lord can do at times of turbulence and tempest in our lives. He stills those winds, so that the forces of evil, fear, and resignation no longer have power over us.* Jesus is at our side, says the Pope, and if we acknowledge him as the one Lord of our lives, he will stretch out his hand, take hold of us, and save us.

Promote Vocations

The Pope concludes by asking the Church, "on this day in particular, but also in the ordinary pastoral life of our communities" to "continue to promote vocations." He says, "may she touch the hearts of the faithful and enable each of them to discover with gratitude God's call in their lives, to find courage to say 'yes' to God, to overcome all weariness through faith in Christ, and to make of their lives a song of praise for God, for their brothers and sisters, and for the whole world."

News Briefs for Spring 2020

CONSECRATION TO LIVE CONSECRATED LIFE IN THE WORLD

Prachi Shah is well-known to our national meeting delegates. We received this update to share with all of you:

Prachi will be professing Canonical Vows of Consecration (to live Consecrated Life in the World according to the Cistercian charism), with her Bishop (Most Rev. Earl Boyea) on August 15, 2020, in Ann Arbor Michigan.

Prachi expressed her desire for prayers and the spiritual accompaniment of the members of the USCSI as her date of Consecration draws near. She is also in the process of starting a *Private Association of the Faithful* as there are a few others who seem to be interested in this way of life as well. Also note, that it is Bishop Boyea who serves on the USCCB Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.

MAGNIFICAT PUBLISHES MEDITATION BY SECULAR INSTITUTE FOUNDER, FATHER PERRIN

Yes, I did read the *Magnificat* with Fr. Perrin's reflection in the "Meditation of the Day" last Wednesday on the Feast of the Annunciation. It was a wonderful and joyful surprise to see Fr. Perrin's words reflecting on Mary's beautiful Fiat! As the founder of Caritas Christi, his writings have such a special and personal meaning to me and I love that all those who read *Magnificat* were able to have a share in his wisdom on this Feast Day of Our Lady!

-Terrie Alby from Savannah, Georgia

Here follows the full text as *Magnificat* is giving free online access at this time due to the coronavirus cancellation of all public religious gatherings.

To register for **FREE ACCESS IN ENGLISH**, visit www.magnificat.com/free.



Magnificat March 25 Annunciation of the Lord / Meditation of the Day

BE IT DONE TO ME

The mouth speaks from the abundance of the heart, above all, when this heart is pure and spotless. The words of Christ are truly *words of eternal life*, filled with inexhaustible light and fruitfulness. Those of the Blessed Virgin reflect something of this fullness. There is no doubt that her response to the message of the Angel Gabriel is her greatest word. It is the sublime revelation of the Immaculate Heart. ...

Mary has heard. She believes. She is aware of the mystery which has been revealed to her. All eyes in heaven and on earth are turned in her direction. ... Mary senses the expectation of the Archangel, or rather of the God who sent him. She hears the groaning of humanity resounding in her heart, that humanity which is enslaved by sin and burdened with sorrow. Her soul expands with the breath of hope which, for centuries, has given life to her people. She is, as it were, buoyed up by the desires and hopes of all the patriarchs and prophets, but at the same time, astonished at the prospect of such a destiny and its fearsome responsibility. ...

News Briefs for Spring 2020

And Mary answers: *Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to thy word.* It is as if she said to God: “I am completely yours; use me for whatever your heart desires.” These are sublime words whose simplicity contains more wisdom than the whole angelic world! It is an act so great and so decisive that its consequences will be endless. *Be it done to me according to thy word*, the humble Virgin whispers, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us. And this living Word embodies the grace of redemption and all the sanctity of the Church. It will mean for all people unending union with him in his Father.

-Father Joseph-Marie Perrin, O.P.

Father Perrin (+2002) was a French Dominican priest, the founder of the secular institute Caritas Christi, and a close friend of Simone Weil. [From *Mary: Mother of Christ and of Christians*, Sr. Jean David Finley, O.P., Tr. Copyright 1978 by the Fathers and Brothers of the Society of St. Paul, ST PAULS/Alba House, Staten Island, NY. www.stpauls.us Used with permission.]

COFFEE WAS CONSIDERED “THE DEVIL’S DRINK” UNTIL POPE CLEMENT VIII TRIED IT

Daniel Esparza | Aug 13, 2019 | *Aleteia.org*

Coffee was not always as popular as it is today. In fact, its fame in the Western Hemisphere began only in the 16th century, largely thanks to Pope Clement VIII.

Of course, coffee didn’t suddenly appear in the late 1500s. Our beloved brew has been around at least since the 9th century when, as explained by Sam Guzman in his note for *The Catholic Gentleman*, Arab shepherds “first noticed coffee beans had a particularly stimulating effect on their sheep. Islamic clerics learned how to cultivate the plant, and quickly coffee spread throughout the Muslim world” which, by then, didn’t only include the Arabian Peninsula and most of Northern Africa and the Levant, but also Sicily, most of Spain and Portugal, and some other regions in the Southern Mediterranean.

Surely, coffee was not received with open arms in Europe, due to its “infidel” origins. After being at war with Muslims for centuries, it’s no wonder Europeans nicknamed coffee “Satan’s drink.” But since “all roads lead to Rome,” coffee eventually got to the Vatican. More specifically, it arrived at Pope Clement VIII’s office. Many of his advisors explicitly asked him to ban it, but the pope had a mind of his own. The pope, Guzman goes on, “was brought a steaming mug of java and he took a sip.” The legend goes he said: “This devil’s drink is delicious. We should cheat the devil by baptizing it.” The rest, as they say, is history.

-Happy feasting on Easter Sunday and the entire Easter Season. May this be a blessed time with loved ones, as we join the Holy Triduum digital celebrations, and deepen our love for the Eucharistic Lord.-

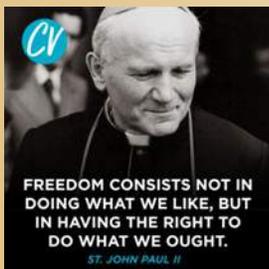
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www.secularinstitutes.org & www.cmis-int.org/en/



* Please take time to share one of your institutes’ coronavirus pandemic experiences in our summer *Mountaineer*: jessica@schsrsmary.org. Thank you.



“In that little Host is the solution to all the problems of the world.”
“Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter People and hallelujah is our song.”

April 2, 2020, was the 15th anniversary of the call to eternity on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday of St Pope John Paul II.

