



# The Mountaineer



## President's Message



Dear Friends,

Outside my window a frisky squirrel is gathering nuts to put away in his secret hiding place to prepare for leaner times. This afternoon it will be out to the garden to bring in the last squash, peppers, and tomatoes before the frost predicted for this week. It seems to be a season of preparation, doesn't it?

I just finished reading a novel called "The Hope Chest." A dying woman brings out memories piece by piece from her cedar chest, with gratitude for every blessing and promise the items symbolize. It occurred to me that at this time of the COVID we could all use a spiritual hope chest that turns our attention to the many gifts God has given us.

We could not have our annual meeting this year, but if we had, the theme would have been "Re-imagining: little things make a big difference."

What are the little things of the past summer that made a difference in your life? Or what small service lighted up the darkness of another person? And I do mean really small gestures.

One of my favorite sayings is, "If a butterfly flaps its wings in Japan, it changes the weather in the U.S." There are many variations of the Butterfly Effect, but wouldn't it be great if the secular institutes started a tsunami of hope in our world so full of despair, violence and hatred? The smallest things done with great love can truly change the world. That was Mother Teresa's motto too: love one person at a time and we see today what an impact she has had on world history.

It takes one snowflake to begin an avalanche and one drop of rain to begin a flood. Could my next action be the one that makes a difference in someone's world and therefore, in the world at large? All that we do as members of the Body of Christ either help or hinder the Church and world. So how about filling that hope chest and leaving the lid open for everyone to enjoy?

While we did not hold our annual meeting this September, the executive committee met virtually that weekend. Among our other business we cast the ceremonial ballot to elect Jessica Swedzinski as secretary and Deacon Paul Lang as our treasurer. Both candidates were unopposed. Hopefully, next year's annual meeting will take place at Marytown, Libertyville, Illinois, September 24-26, 2021. Mark your calendars and pray that we will be able to travel.

God bless you all,  
Marcia Vinje



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## SITUATION IN JAMAICA for the MADONNA DELLA STRADA SECULAR INSTITUTE

Here in Jamaica as soon as we learnt of the corona virus our Minister of Health acted promptly taking precautionary steps to prevent the spread of the virus here. Our population is approximately just over two million persons, most of whom live in the city of Kingston. Ports of entry to the island were blocked for a while and an old hospital was put back to use to house persons suspected to have the virus or who had actually caught it. A curfew was set to ensure people would be off the streets by a certain time daily. No parties were to be held; no dances; and no church services.

Everyone was encouraged to stay at home. The only reason to be on the street would be to purchase food, or make visits to the doctor. Supermarkets would be open for brief periods. Of course, we were to wear masks. I think it worked well as only some 700 persons in Jamaica caught the virus and most of them were able to be healed.

Pearline and I have been fortunate as we have a Chapel at our home with the Blessed Sacrament here as this is the Centre for our Institute. We have Mass daily through EWTN. We consider these most wonderful blessings from God!

Before the advent of the virus our sisters of our Institute would meet here once per month and we would invite a priest to celebrate Holy Mass for us on this occasion. We miss not being able to have our meetings since the virus. We endeavor to communicate more often via telephone and email.

We thank God that so far none of us institute members has caught the virus yet. Additionally we thank God for the time we now have to pray and contemplate his goodness and love. *-Marlene Holman and Pearline Archer, July 24, 2020*



These are pictures of Odette's First Oblation Renewal at Stella Maris Roman Catholic Church in Kingston on May 24, 2020. The priest is Rev. Fr. Howard Thompson, PhD, Pastor. As a result of COVID 19 and the consequent lockdowns and restrictions, it was advised that the Oblation be done after Mass rather than during Mass just before receiving Communion as per MdS regulations. As such, Father was very willing and ready to facilitate and I prepared for him a suggested procedure.

Odette attended Mass and remained after Mass for the ceremony. Before a small monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and after a short introduction, Father Thompson invited Odette to renew her oblation. This he received on behalf of the Church and MdS and was followed by the signatures.

I, on behalf of MdS, was very appreciative and thanked God and our Pastor for the guidance and possibility to have had this done. *-Pearline Archer*



The COVID-19 Pandemic has caused all of us to work a little harder to stay connected amidst social distancing and limited travel. The **DeSales Secular Institute**'s much anticipated annual retreat at Miramar Retreat Center in Duxbury, Massachusetts, was our latest spiritual event to be cancelled. But as the saying goes, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder," it just made us more determined to get together in any way we could, even if it involved the rather challenging world of technology. And what a beautiful blessing our retreat turned out to be!

While a handful of us had become somewhat proficient with video chat technology, it was a new experience for some. We hosted practice sessions the week before the retreat, which was held September 11-13 on Zoom. Downloading, dialing in, turning off the mute button, and so many other steps tested the resolve of some, but by grace we persevered and were able to connect with everyone.

The greatest blessing was being able to see and/or hear so many of our members who have not been able to travel to the annual retreat because of distance and health issues. For Adele Barnett, who had never used video chat to connect to our meetings before, it was a wonderful surprise. "I never thought it could seem like we were really together. But it was like we were all in the same room. It was so nice." Group Assistant Father Don Heet, OSFS, gave three conferences over the course of the weekend. The group also prayed evening prayer and the rosary together. Members were encouraged to attend mass and use non-video time for quiet reflective prayer.

The highlight of the weekend turned out to be the vow and prayer ceremony. Without the ability to gather at Mass each member had to renew their vows and promises locally. But such an important and profound moment in the life of a DSI member needed to be shared as a group. Group Directress Kathy Tierney created a prayer altar in her home with the Constitution and Spiritual Directory flanked on either side by a statue of St. Francis de Sales and the Blessed Virgin Mary, with the Sacred Heart of Jesus taking center stage.

Each member was individually invited to renew her promise or vow. After each renewal a prayer was said and a candle was lit and placed before a crucifix. Associate Barbara Haughton wrote, "Even in the virtual world of Zoom...I felt so close to all of you. It was so lovely the way in which we made our individual Renewal of Promises. I was really filled with joy."

You could really sense the presence of our Lord in this virtual retreat. Candidate Heather Triggs remarked, "I hadn't imagined that a Zoom retreat would be so touching." The effort that the members made to make this



happen was proof of our desire to be an active community, even when outside forces like a pandemic make it seem impossible. What could have driven us apart has actually helped us grow closer together. Associate Madeline Rice shared, "What a great *treat* to see all your happy, beautiful faces when we can't be together in person." God be praised! -Kathy Tierney

## Activities in the Midwest in the Midst of the Pandemic

The Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary run a retreat house on the shores of Lake Sleepy Eye in beautiful rural Minnesota. Ordinarily the summers are filled with youth camps, and weekend retreats during the year. Of course, that did not happen this year, but neither have the institute members been idle.



The resident youth minister, Kayla Brion, brainstormed with the older members of the Schoenstatt Youth who came up with the idea to invite everyone to a whole summer of camp instead of *just* one week. Twenty-seven young women who lead our youth groups worked together under the care of our Blessed Mother to prepare the most beautiful “Schoenstatt Summer” possible.

There were plenty of materials online and offline. This way the girls who needed the interaction and games with others could get that in Zoom meetings, but those whose families did not want their girls to sit in front of the computer could still be enriched by the Schoenstatt Summer experience. Thus the Schoenstatt Summer Apostolate took two main forms: a Schoenstatt Summer “survival packet” that was sent to them in the mail and a weekly e-mail with all of the online activities they would need for the week.

Every day was also given a specific title to help them go into the topics: Meditation Monday with morning meditations in the form of short videos prepared by the leaders on the week’s theme; Testimony Tuesday featuring the story of a Schoenstatt Hero; Workshop Wednesday when the girls could connect for a talk, discussion, and activity done live over Zoom; Activity Thursday with dancing, a bonfire, a tea party, music, or a craft; Family Friday offering projects that could be done

together as a family during the time of pandemic. One of the best outcomes was drawing in families and showing the girls that fun and religion belong together all year long, not just during one week in the summer.

Kayla also facilitated a separate camp for high school girls which centered on deeper spirituality and mission outreach. In the evening they reconnected to share how the mission projects went, review the topic of the day through a personal testimony given by a leader in college, and to discuss impressions from the meditation and talk. Each day concluded with evening prayer. On the last evening, they connected for games as a celebration of all they had experienced.

A month of weekly workshops and discussions for young women in college was also offered. The workshops were hands on and helped give them skills of self-education that would help them not to lose motivation during the difficult time of pandemic and as they enter into another school year.

Each year in September Schoenstatt on the Lake offers a family retreat. Since the retreat doors are still “closed,” another door “opened” and that was to have the family weekend in their own homes. The theme chosen for the weekend was: *Our family, a kingdom of love and joy!* All the material for the weekend was found in a box mailed to each family that registered, including daily inspirations, a morning and evening prayer booklet, a booklet for the Holy Hour and for the family rosary, along with games, crafts and other activities. Other little greetings were also found in their package – such as dum-dum’s, more craft surprises and a book on the Miracles of our Lady and on those of St. Joseph. As the preparations got underway a binder with family activities for every month of the year was added.

On Friday evening, September 18, the retreat was opened with a Holy Hour in the Minnesota Schoenstatt Marian Shrine that was live-streamed. In this way all families could begin the weekend together with prayer in the shrine. Eighty families participated with a grand total of 440 people, a whole lot more than our retreat house could ever host. –*Marcia Vinje*

## Catholic Churches Have Done It Right

Catholic churches across the country have been open for up to four months since shelter-in-place orders were lifted. With approximately 17,000 parishes in America typically holding three or more weekend masses - and a greater number of daily masses - for the last 14 or more weeks - over one million public masses have been celebrated following guidelines to prevent the spread of the virus: in sum, follow the three W's - watch your distance, wear your mask, and wash your hands.

The Good News: for Catholic churches following these guidelines, no outbreaks of COVID-19 have been linked to church attendance, even though we have examples - some described below - of asymptomatic, unknowingly infected individuals attending mass and other parish functions. Their attendance could have led to an outbreak if appropriate precautions were not followed, yet in each case, we found no evidence of viral transmission.

Mr. Nick Schoen, an employee of the Archdiocese of Seattle (which has been following a contact-tracing protocol for everyone who comes to church), provided a case series from the Archdiocese involving COVID-19-positive individuals who participated in various parish events or sacramental encounters but who did not spread the virus to others:

- During a July 3 funeral mass (45 attendees, capacity 885), two members of one household notified the parish that they had tested positive for COVID-19 and were infected and pre-symptomatic during the Mass.
- A volunteer at a July 5 mass (94 attendees, capacity 499) became ill 24 hours later and then tested positive for COVID-19.
- During a July 11 wedding (200 attendees, capacity 908), fresh air circulated from multiple open windows with the aid of fans. The following day, an attendee developed symptoms of COVID and on July 13 tested positive. The attendee was almost certainly contagious with pre-symptomatic infection during the wedding.
- On July 12, an attendee at a parish board meeting (six attendees, room capacity 30), tested positive shortly thereafter and was determined to have been infected and contagious during the meeting.
- Finally, three priests anointed sick individuals in non-ventilated rooms during five- to fifteen-minute visits. The sick persons were not thought to have COVID-19 at the time but within two days each tested positive for COVID-19.

In each of these five examples, all participants (except for the priests at the altar and other liturgical ministers) wore masks, and maintained six-feet of distance between non-household groups - except for brief encounters such as reception of Holy Communion or anointing. In each case, public health officials and attendees were notified of possible exposure, and no individual developed COVID-19 by 14 days after each event.

We also reviewed recent public health and media reports regarding COVID-19 dissemination and found no reports of disease transmission, let alone outbreaks, in a Catholic church following such guidelines. These findings are not surprising since wearing masks prevented all 139 clients served by two COVID-infected hair stylists from acquiring COVID-19, and these individuals were much closer to each other than socially-distanced participants at a Catholic Mass. Furthermore, a report of a mask-wearing COVID-infected individual who developed a dry cough just before a 15-hour flight with 350 passengers resulted in no other infections, even in the 25 individuals within six-feet. This demonstrates how a mask can protect those near someone who is infectious even when they have a cough.

Finally, even a simple paper surgical mask (easily purchased in many stores) can protect the wearer. Such a mask protected all 35 health care workers who wore one and were exposed for over ten minutes within six feet of a COVID-patient coughing and generating aerosols in their faces.

This encouraging news should inspire confidence that the guidelines in place - based on CDC recommendations - are working to decrease COVID-19 transmission. While nothing during a pandemic is risk-free, these guidelines mean that Catholics (and public officials) may be confident that it's reasonably safe to come to Church for Mass and the sacraments.

## Catholic Churches *continued...*

Indeed, for Catholics, the Mass and above all the Eucharist are central to the Christian life. In a time like this, it is even more important that the faithful be able to come to Church and receive Holy Communion.

This past spring, groups such as the [Thomistic Institute](#) and the [Catholic Medical Association](#) issued guidelines for the safe celebration of Mass and sacraments. Bishops have used these guidelines to develop diocesan policies that typically include social distancing, careful hand hygiene, and mask-wearing by the congregation. In late July, the Thomistic Institute (TI) released [updated guidelines](#) for celebration of Mass during the COVID-19 pandemic. No evidence has emerged to suggest that distribution of Holy Communion in accordance with TI Guidelines has led to COVID transmission.

The [few churches](#) that have been reported as sources of COVID-19 outbreaks did not follow social distancing or require masks; they also promoted congregational singing. These reports were widely circulated and led to the recommendation in many jurisdictions that no church services (including Catholic masses) be publicly celebrated. In [San Francisco, onerous restrictions](#) were placed that allowed Mass only outside, for no more than twelve individuals.

Recent cases of Governors limiting church attendance more than other activities (e.g., gambling in casinos, eating in restaurants, or attending movies) have struck many of America's faithful as unfairly targeting religious believers and worshipers. To date, the evidence does not suggest that Church attendance - following the current guidelines - is any more risky than shopping for groceries. And the spiritual good for believers in coming to Church is immeasurably important for their well-being.

Because we have no formal studies, continuing attention and scrutiny will remain in place. We intend to update guidelines as we learn more. In short, the data suggest that when a community follows proper guidelines, as Catholic dioceses have, people can receive the spiritual comfort of church attendance while preventing the spread of the virus. *From: thedeaconsbench.com*

*Signed: Physician Members of the Thomistic Institute Working Group on Infectious Disease Protocols for Sacraments & Pastoral Care*

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## The Culture of Encounter and Consecrated Secularity: Inspiration from *Fratelli Tutti*

*On ne voit bien qu'avec le cœur. L'essentiel est invisible pour les yeux.* "It is only with the heart that one can see rightly; what is essential is invisible to the eye." These iconic words from Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's classic children's book, *The Little Prince*, provide an approach to foster the *culture of encounter* described by Pope Francis in his latest Encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, and moreover, provide a blueprint for life for those called to the vocation of Consecrated Secularity. In the Holy Father's recent encyclical, he expresses a desire to foster a way of life characterized by the spirit of fraternal openness - a spirit which "...allows us to acknowledge, appreciate and love each person...[through] the bonds of fraternity and social friendship." (*Fratelli Tutti*: 1, 2) Quoting St. Francis of Assisi, the Holy Father notes that the seeds of peace, sown in this "culture of encounter," bear fruit in inclusivity, wherein "*the poor, the abandoned the infirm and the outcast, and the least of his brothers and sisters...*" find a home in an openness of heart which knows no bounds. (*Fratelli Tutti*: 2, 3)

For Pope Francis, this spirit of fraternity is predicated on an *openness to dialogue with the other*, and a willingness to enter into "*the art of encounter.*" (*Fratelli Tutti*: 198, 215) This "art of encounter" requires a willingness to *approach, listen to, and look at the other*, and to see within each person, the unique imprint of the fingerprint of God (c.f., *Laudato Si*, 239, 240). To see the "imprint of God in the other," and especially in "...those on the peripheries of life..." (*Fratelli Tutti*: 215), requires one to see the other *with the eyes of the heart*. For the Holy Father, this "culture of encounter," requires a missionary zeal: "*to speak of a 'culture of encounter' means that we, as a people, should be passionate about meeting others, seeking points of contact, building bridges, ... that includes everyone. This becomes an aspiration and a style of life.*" (*Fratelli Tutti*: 216)

For those called to a vocation of Consecrated Secularity, this "culture of encounter" becomes not just a "style of life," but rather a roadmap for life. The witness of a consecrated secular is typified by one who lives as an "ambassador of encounter," - by one who works "...in a simple way, 'as Jesus did': not just seeing, but looking, not just hearing, but listening, not just passing people by, but stopping with them, not just saying 'what a shame, poor people!' but allowing [one]self to be moved with compassion; and then to draw near, to touch and to say, 'Do

*not weep, ' and to give at least a drop of life.*" (Pope Francis, Morning Meditation, *Domus Sanctae Martae*, 13 September 2016). For those called to the vocation of Consecrated Secularity, the "drop of life" that one can bring to the existential peripheries, is an encounter with and experience of the Mercy of God.

To find the most perfect model of this "ambassador of encounter," we do not need to look any further than the example of the Blessed Mother - the first Consecrated Secular. Upon consenting to the message of the Angel Gabriel, and being filled with the Presence of God (c.f., Luke 1:38), propelled by a missionary zeal, Mary goes "*in haste*" to bring the Presence of God to the people of God. She travels to the existential peripheries, "*where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth*" (Luke 1:40) whereby the fruit of this encounter was nothing but unbridled joy: "*at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped with joy.*" (Luke 1:44) In this moment, Mary models for all Consecrated Seculars the necessary prerequisites to be an "Ambassador of Encounter": she first cultivates a "cell" within her heart which could be filled with the Presence of God, allowing her to be transformed into a "living Tabernacle"; she recognizes that the Presence of God is a treasure to be shared, and with "missionary zeal," brings the Presence of God to the people of God; and she provides a witness that an authentic encounter with the person of Christ brings about a deep experience of joy in the other, wherein the only response of the other upon encountering Christ is to "*leap with joy.*" The mission of the Consecrated Secular is similar: through this precious way of life, through the Sanctifying Grace of Consecrated Life, individuals have the opportunity to serve as "ambassadors of Encounter," and "ministers of Mercy," bringing the presence of Christ to the existential peripheries of society.

The Holy Father writes, "*in many parts of the world, there is a need for paths of peace to heal open wounds. There is also a need for peacemakers, men and women prepared to work boldly and creatively to initiate processes of healing and renewed encounter.*" (*Fratelli Tutti*: 225) This is the vocation and mission of Consecrated Seculars - to be instruments of peace, healing and **encounter** in the midst of the fragility of the world.... And it begins with a gaze always on Jesus - *to see with the heart, what is essentially invisible to the eyes.* -Prachi Shah, MD

## Prayer for the U.S. Government

### Powerful Prayer for the U.S. Government Written by America's First Catholic Bishop



*Archbishop John Carroll was the first bishop and archbishop in the United States, serving from 1790-1815. He wrote this **Prayer for the United States** Government which we offer for your adoration hours before our next general election on November 3, 2020:*

We pray, O almighty and eternal God,  
who through Jesus Christ has revealed thy glory to all nations,  
to preserve the works of your mercy,  
that your Church, being spread through the whole world,  
may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of your name.

We pray Thee, who alone are good and holy,  
to endow with heavenly knowledge,  
sincere zeal and sanctity of life,  
our chief bishop, the pope, the vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ,  
in the government of his Church;  
our own bishop, all other bishops, prelates and pastors of the Church;  
and especially those who are appointed to exercise among us the functions of the holy ministry,  
and conduct your people into the ways of salvation.

We pray O God of might,  
wisdom and justice,  
through whom authority is rightly administered,  
laws are enacted, and judgment decreed,  
assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States,  
that his administration may be conducted in righteousness



## Prayer for U.S. Government *continued...*

and be eminently useful to your people over whom he presides;  
by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion;  
by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy;  
and by restraining vice and immorality.

Let the light of your divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress,  
and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government,

so that they may tend to the preservation of peace,  
the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge;  
and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state,  
for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers  
who are appointed to guard our political welfare,  
that they may be enabled, by your powerful protection,  
to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to your unbounded mercy,  
all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States,  
that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of your most holy law;  
that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give;  
and after enjoying the blessings of this life,  
be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to you, O Lord of mercy,  
to remember the souls of your servants departed,  
who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace;  
the souls of our parents, relatives and friends;  
of those who, when living, were members of this congregation,  
and particularly of such as are lately deceased;  
of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies  
to this Church,  
witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship  
and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable  
remembrance.

To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ,  
grant, we beseech you, a place of refreshment,  
light and everlasting peace,  
through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior.  
Amen.

*By ChurchPOP.com Editor - July 27, 2020*



## MAY OUR DECEASED MEMBERS REST IN PEACE

*The Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary in the North American province lost four members:*

**Anne Mary Hoefler** died at the age of 91 on November 18, 2019. She was born in Germany and in 1953 came to the U.S. to help build up our institute. Most of those years were spent in Texas as a seamstress, teacher, and finally as a lab assistant. After her retirement she took over the responsibility for the religious goods store at our retreat center in Lamar. This she built into a thriving business as well as an apostolic outreach.

**Simonette Garcia** was born in Chile, becoming a chemical engineer. Thanks to a scholarship to study at Columbia University in New York, she had the opportunity to meet our founder in Milwaukee. He encouraged her to speak with other communities in order to clarify her vocation. Ultimately, she joined the Schoenstatt Sisters in 1964. She worked with our Schoenstatt Lay Movement and especially as a formatter for the fledgling Schoenstatt Institute of Families, who were aspiring to become a secular institute. Simonette died at the age of 87 on June 3, 2020.

The coronavirus claimed the life of **Sandra Reyes Rodriguez** of the Dominican Republic at the age of 65. She was instrumental in founding a school for girls in the mountains, and a pre-school in Tenares, where she also built up a vocational school for women so they could support their families. At the time of her death Sandra was the director of a technical high school in La Victoria. Even though the school was closed due to the virus she continued to hand out food packages to the students. Two of her sisters also died from the virus.

**Petra Schnuerer** was born in Slovakia and with her family became a refugee during World War II. They eventually settled in Germany where she got to know our Schoenstatt lay movement. She traveled to the U.S. to meet the founder and stayed on as his secretary until she entered our institute in 1960. She was instrumental in building up the Schoenstatt lay movement in New York, Puerto Rico, and the Dominican Republic. With her linguistic talents she traveled the world to give training in our Schoenstatt spirituality. Petra died on September 20, 2020, at the age of 86.

**Jeannine A. Poulin**, OMMI, 82, passed away peacefully on June 8, 2020. Jeannine was born in Sidney, Maine, and she graduated from Cony High School in Augusta. She pursued her higher education at Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill, MA, Kennebec Vocational College, Fairfield, ME and Community College, San Antonio, TX. She was employed by Seton (Sisters Hospital) in Waterville and then by State of Maine, Department of Human Services until her retirement. She was quite the jokester and prankster, always looking to put a smile on someone's face or have a good laugh herself. She also enjoyed watching QVC to see all the latest gadgets. Jeannine entered The Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, a secular institute of committed Catholic Women living the gospel at the heart of the world, on October 18, 1957. Some of her fondest memories were spending time at the Retreat House in Biddeford Pool and when she could no longer attend Mass because of her illness, daily Mass on TV was top priority.



☞ **For making donations to USCSI:** please send to Deacon Paul Lang, 26 Settler Court, Tinton Falls, NJ 07753. Ensure checks are made out to "USCSI" – *May God Reward You 100-Fold.*

## News Briefs - Fall Mountaineer 2020

☞ Three quotes to help us understand why the Church sets aside an entire month out of every year to focus **on praying the Holy Rosary**: *“The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times.” –St Padre Pio. “One day, through the Rosary and the Scapular, Our Lady will save the world.” –St Dominic. “There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.” –Sister Lucia dos Santos*

☞ Echoes from our **Summer Mountaineer**: Thank you, Jessica! The newsletter was fantastic. So interesting and full of hope during this pandemic. Is it posted on your website? I would like to mention it on Facebook and send people your way. God bless, Anne Tschanz, Institute on Religious Life, PO Box 7500, Libertyville, IL 60048

Thank you very much for the newsletter. It looks great and I am enjoying looking at it. I hope you are well. God bless. In Christ through Mary, Fr. Daniel Hanley, Associate Director, CCLV, 3211 4<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Washington, DC 20017

Thank you for keeping me in the loop. The witness of these women and men is most inspiring. Every blessing on all you are about. Br. Patrick Sean Moffett, CFC (Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations Advisory Committee)



☞ Touchback from our summer issue: A Missionary of the Kingship of Christ shared about her coronavirus work and was asked to share about **her weight loss journey**.

“I started with Weight Watchers which I still follow and then joined a gym and work out five times a week. I struggle with getting off the last few pounds I want to lose, but the trainers at the gym want me to focus on the fitness not the number on the scale. All I know is I am feeling better than I have for years. I was destroying the body God gave to me. I’m 100 pounds lighter so I love seeing the old pictures. They remind me of where I don’t ever want to be again. Loved the stories especially Doreen’s. I pray for her daily. -Mary Lou Carr

☞ Great News: check the U.S. website for our general **brochure now in SPANISH**. Keep checking for our Facebook Postings “coming soon!”

☞ Recall the article about **Venerable Carlo Acutis**, the Italian teenager and computer programmer who died in 2006 on page nine Posting in Facebook: see this link about his opened tomb <https://youtu.be/oXWjbPld5Xs> for his beatification on October 10<sup>th</sup> in Assisi.

☞ **Another Vocation**: A young woman joined us last May 24<sup>th</sup> – on the Feast of Madonna della Strada – from Maryland. She saw my name in the website. We have another inquiry from Rhode Island. Once again the person inquiring got my name from the Secular Institute Directory. It's really good to be known. May this new initiative give us more vocations and help those who are searching for the will of God. Love and prayers, *Judy Salcedo, co-directress MdS*

☩ **Terri Alby, Caritas Christi**, from Albany, Georgia, shares: “This year was to be my final profession, but unfortunately with the pandemic, I had to make another year of renewal. The **final profession** needs to be made in witness as a group; not being able to have our annual retreat together has therefore necessitated a postponement... I had a lovely day for my renewal on the Feast of St. Kateri with a wonderful priest who had a private Mass for me on this day. So, it looks like 2021, truly in God's Hands!”

☩ **Fr. George Hazler, Voluntas Dei**, Chaplain and Spiritual Director at **Guest House in Lake Orion, Michigan** prepared this video at Guest House during the pandemic as a virtual pilgrimage for the people of St. Hugo of the Hills Parish: <https://vimeo.com/417333868>. The Annual Guest House All Souls' Mass will be live streamed thru Facebook @GuestHouseRecovery on November 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11:00 AM. Bishop Donald Hanchon will be celebrant.

☩ From **Mary-Cabrini Durkin**, North American principal officer: One of the leaders in the **Company of St. Ursula** of France received an inquiry from a woman in Germany who was interested to find an institute there. The following simple steps are: Click on the CMIS site ([www.cmis-int.org/en/](http://www.cmis-int.org/en/)), then on the **world location map**, click on your country of interest and all the secular institutes with members living and working in that country are listed. Next, viewer is instructed to go to the link tool to get the information from the particular institutes via the alphabetical listing of Secular Institutes around the globe. Amazing, and the curious should have fun with it. The Holy Spirit has quite some interesting modern tools.

☩ **USCSI National Meeting is scheduled for September 24 - 26, 2021, at Marytown, Libertyville, Illinois.** Mark your calendars now. We will keep you posted. We need you there!

☩ **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:**

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[www.secularinstitutes.org](http://www.secularinstitutes.org) & [www.cmis-int.org/en/](http://www.cmis-int.org/en/)

☩ Please share joys & blessings from your institute for the **Winter Mountaineer**. Email [jessica@schsrsmary.org](mailto:jessica@schsrsmary.org) by **December 1, 2020**.

