The Mountaineer

United States Conference of Secular Institutes

June 2025

Volume 18, Issue 2

From the President's Desk

Dear Friends,

In his first homily as Pope the morning after his election, Leo XIV emphasized that his and our mission is "to announce the good news, to announce the Gospel…And this, the good news of salvation, is to be spread…through the holiness of her members."

Addressing the Holy Father in a congratulatory letter, the president of the World Conference of Secular Institutes, Elba Fleita, speaks of the role and contribution of secular institutes, noting that we in secular institutes are "committed by our charism in the midst of the world to be leaven and light in all spheres. Our commitment as a particular form of consecrated life in the Church invites us to correspond to your own episcopal and now papal motto: *In the One, we are one.* You can count on our closeness and fraternal sense of co-responsibility to carry out the mission with you."

The word co-responsibility is a reminder that–in the words of Pope Francis–we must never tire of showing God's closeness and tenderness through daily acts of love. And for this we need the nourishment of the Holy Eucharist and a deep and consistent prayer life.

Pope Leo's coat of arms is also a key to what influenced him as priest and will guide his direction as pope. We see the papal symbols of ecclesial authority (the mitre) and Petrine power (the keys). But it is the shield which is specific: the top left blue represents the fleur de lis of the purity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the lower quadrant shows a flaming heart pierced by an arrow, sitting on an uncovered book.

This is the emblem of the Order of St Augustine of which the Pope served as Prior General for two terms, and symbolically evokes Saint Augustine's words in *The Confessions:* "You have wounded my heart with your love." The book represents the word of God. The message is clear: meditate and act on knowledge of God's intense and constant love of each of us through mercy and message.

In this Jubilee Year, we hope you will join us the weekend of September 26-28, 2025, at our annual conference to be held at the Bons Secour Retreat Center in Marriottsville MD to renew friendships, to pray with, learn with, and break bread together. "In the One, we are one."

Sue



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We have an American Pope—born in Chicago, Illinois! Congratulations and Prayers!

Rome, May 11, 2025.

On the Feast of the Good Shepherd.

His Holiness Leo XIV,
Vatican City.

Dear and beloved Holy Father,

It is with great joy that I extend to you – on behalf of all the members of the Secular Institutes – my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of your election as Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pontiff to guide the destinies of our Church. The joy that was expressed in St. Peter's Square on May 8 is still felt today in each of our hearts. We have prayed fervently for the Holy Spirit to enlighten our brother cardinals; the Spirit has shown us once again that our God is the God of surprises. Blessed be our ever-faithful and generous God!



Leone PP XIV
8 maggio 2025

The World Conference of Secular Institutes brings together about 190 different Institutes on all continents. We are more than 35,000 members – lay women and men, priests – committed by our charism in the midst of the world to be leaven and light in all spheres. Our commitment as a particular form of consecrated life in the Church invites us to correspond to your own episcopal and now papal motto: *"In the One, we are one."* You can count on our closeness and fraternal sense of co-responsibility to carry out the mission with you in a great spirit of synodality.

On this day of the Good Shepherd, I raise a prayer to heaven that you may guide the Lord's flock along paths of peace and justice. May our shared commitment to be bearers of the Good News make all of us *"pilgrims of hope"*; thus we will be instruments in the hands of the one Good Shepherd so that the new heaven and the new earth may be established.

Once again, I wish to congratulate you on your election and assure you of the humble prayers of all the members of the Secular Institutes.

In the Risen Christ,
Elba Fleita, President

What Secular Institute Members are doing for the Holy Year

Thanks for the information provided by Marcia Vinje, we can take a look at the Schoenstatt Secular Institutes and their hallmark of offering a spiritual home via various replicas of the original 12th century small shrine in Germany close to the Rhine River. We are half-way through this tremendous ***HOLY YEAR of HOPE—Dec 24, 2024 to Jan 6, 2026***

Come to an out-of-the-way place to rest and pray for a while ...

This year, Pilgrims of Hope have the chance to obtain the Jubilee Indulgence in most of the Schoenstatt Shrines in the USA. This has sparked excitement and spiritual renewal. In the vast size of our country, the custodians of our shrines found out about their designation as jubilee sites in beautiful surprises of God-filled moments.

First to be notified were our custodians of the *Light and Way to the Merciful Father Shrine*, in Miami. Carlos Pulido, the Diocesan Coordinator, shared that early in November 2024, they were informed about this blessing—not only because of the Jubilee Year but also as they celebrate 15 years of the shrine. The MTA is a *quinceañera* in December 2025. The shrine's pastoral team, made up of 15 Schoenstatt couples, actively organizes events for pilgrims, including confessions, rosaries, talks on the movement and the founder, and information about the Jubilee Year. Carlos emphasized that the shrine is very well visited by pilgrims.



◄ Our center in Texas also received a surprise on November 6, 2024 when at the annual dinner event where Bishop Michael Mulvey gave his year-end address, our staff learned of this blessing. The Schoenstatt *Confidentia Shrine* in Lamar was designated one of six pilgrimage sites in the Diocese of Corpus Christi. With the help of a retired priest, they have been able to offer monthly reflection days on hope, advertising with the help of the Catholic radio stations and websites from parishes within the 11,000 square miles of 16 counties. A steady flow of pilgrims seeking information on how to receive the Jubilee Indulgence visit the Santuario daily.

Next, in New York, Auxiliary Bishop Peter Byrne presented the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary with a letter from the Vicar General on December 3, informing them that Cardinal Dolan had designated the *Shrine of Light* as a pilgrimage site for the Jubilee Year of Hope. Since this announcement, Veronica Muniz says that "a continuous stream of visitors comes to our city shrine." The monthly tallies from January through May 29 is 3,377 pilgrims with March-Lenten Season over 820 and May-Crowning already over 900 pilgrims. ►



In Wisconsin, two of our shrines were also designated pilgrimage sites. Shortly after Christmas, we learned of the designation of the *International Shrine of the Father Kingdom* in Waukesha while attending a Mass for the retiring archbishop, Jerome Listecki. At the International Schoenstatt Center, additional confession times and weekday Masses are offered, alongside pilgrimages from parishes and schools.

A couple of weeks later, we were informed that the *Founder Shrine* in Madison had also been designated by Bishop Donald

Share what your Institute is doing extra for the Holy Year

Hying. The Diocese of Madison is encouraging the faithful to visit all six pilgrimage sites in the area using materials to facilitate the visits. A table is found in the back of the shrine with brochures, passport booklets, and stamps for the pilgrims—all provided by the diocese.

In Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, Bishop Chad Zielinski designated the *Jubilee Family Shrine* as one of the diocesan pilgrimage sites. Candace Fier, Director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of New Ulm, was pleasantly surprised when she met with the bishop after the New Year's holiday. Bishop Zielinski remarked, "I announced it at Mass and even preached about the shrine in my homily." At *Schoenstatt on the Lake* pilgrims can find postcards with information about the indulgence in connection with the three graces, participate in the rosary on Wednesdays or in retreats on hope.

In February 2025, as the leaders of the Schoenstatt Family in Nebraska joined Bishop James Conley of Lincoln for Mass and breakfast, they received the exciting news that the Cor Mariae Shrine in Crete had been designated as a pilgrimage site. Overjoyed, the leaders have begun to spread the news with all in the diocese.

In the USA, seven out of ten shrines have been identified as jubilee sites. Precisely when the signs of the times give us confusing messages, it can be difficult to understand in which direction the world is moving. More aware of these beacons of hope, we have the conviction that Jesus is showing us the way. He is giving us the chance to reconnect with him and the jubilee indulgence is a great opportunity.

Being so familiar with the practice of bringing good works, sacrifices, and petitions in pilgrimage to a place of grace, we take to heart the invitation of the Holy Father. The mission of the Church, of which we are its bearers, beckons us to become instruments of peace, true pilgrims of hope, leading others to encounter. Go, by inviting people to come and seek grace—one pilgrimage step, one holy year site after the other.

Holy Year Jubilee 2025 Prayer

Father in heaven, may the **faith** you have
given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of **charity** enkindled in our
hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed
hope for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within both
humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure
expectation of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us,
Pilgrims of Hope, a yearning for the treasures
of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and
peace of our Redeemer throughout the earth.
To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen.

Ascension Thursday is May 29th with Pentecost Sunday on June 8th

The Holy Spirit—Our Educator, *Sermon excerpts given by Fr Kentenich, May 12, 1963, in Milwaukee*

… **Mary is the masterpiece of the educational activity of the Holy Spirit.** Indeed we are told: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and power of the Most High will cover you with its shadow. And so the child will be holy and will be called Son of God" *Lk 1:35.* There we have all three: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Mary is totally under the influence of the most Blessed Trinity. What does this mean in detail? I think we should put it like this: Our Lady is in the first place a unique model, yet at the same time, mother of the educational activity of the Holy Spirit.

A unique model! Mary is the mother of fair hope, of holy hope and model of holy hope. **The divine virtue of HOPE contains three elements: Longing, Confidence and Co-operation.**

1) How did the Holy Spirit enkindle the fire of longing in the soul of Our Lady? It is certainly not difficult for us to imagine how great her longing for God must have been, since we take it for granted that she took the longing of the patriarchs and prophets, the longing of the whole Old Testament, into her self and constantly nurtured it with greatest care.

Dear people, what are the longings that move our hearts? Do we, for example, long for the Holy Spirit to educate us? Do we long for God to draw our entire souls to himself? Do we long for our children to become what God wants them to be? What are the longings that fill our hearts?

2) Our Lady is also a masterpiece in regard to the second element of hope, which is confidence. Generally speaking, confidence in God is proved in the strongest and most classic way when we have to bear cross and suffering, when we have to go through tests, when we start to speak to God in prayer. These are the three situations in which we find it the most difficult to have to preserve confidence in God.

Let us look at Our Lady's life and think of the tests she had to endure. I shall only highlight one: When she was carrying the child beneath her heart, Joseph did not know what had happened to her. Hence, his mistrust and on the other hand, her suffering. How was she to tell him about what had become a reality in her?... She tells herself: I shall leave it to God to get me out of this difficulty. For him nothing is impossible. Can you see how strong her confidence was in the face of this difficulty! It was rewarded in that Joseph was informed by an angel in a dream.



… Recall Cana, she asks for the first miracle that he worked, and merely in order to remedy a very simple difficulty. He dismisses her and does not promise her a hearing, but she holds unshakably on to his words: I shall give you everything you ask for! She clings to this most firmly, in spite of being rejected! And what does she achieve? The miracle comes into being! See how great her confidence was, for she was totally under the influence of God, of the Holy Spirit.

… Or Calvary where Our Lady stood there, then takes him onto her lap, closes his eyes, anoints him. It certainly seems as if it has all ended in a fiasco, but her heart is afire with the confidence that he is redeeming the world. **Mary's confidence which is unshakable in all situations!**

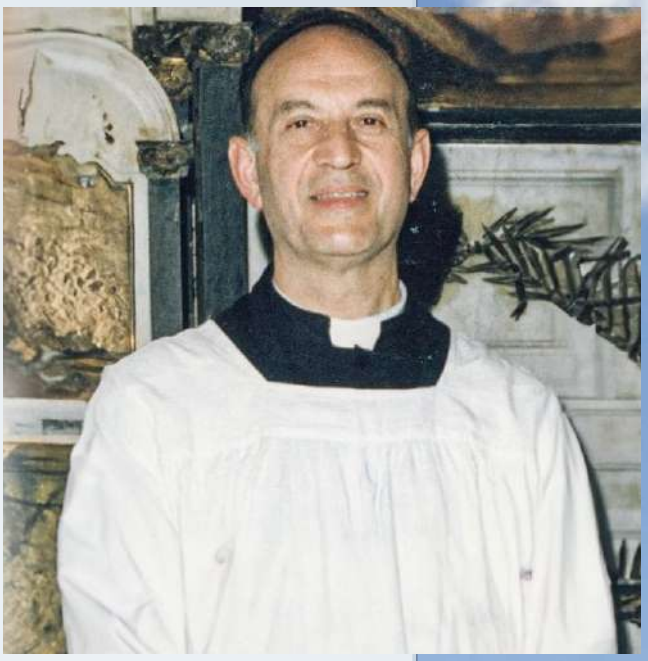
3) And then above all, her co-operation! "It is not good that the man should be alone. I will make him a helpmate" *Gn 2:18.* Just as Eve was Adam's helpmate, Our Lady is the helpmate of the Redeemer in the entire work of redemption. She did not just somehow respond to God's grace, but said a heartfelt yes to it and co-operated with it. So it is that she stands before us as the masterpiece of divine educational art and divine educational wisdom. *-Contributed by MTA Magazine, England, 10/2023*

Consecrated Life in Secular Institutes: Missionaries to all in the Secular World

Fr. Paul Niemann alerted me to this notice from the April 15, 2025, America *Magazine site regarding a priest from a secular institute who is up for sainthood – and has ties to our institute:*

"Pope Francis recognized the heroic virtues of Father Agostino Cozzolino, an Italian priest who was born in 1928 and spent his life ministering in Naples. He was dedicated to charity, catechesis and pastoral care in poor and difficult neighborhoods. He was a member of the Institute of the Heart of Jesus, a secular institute for diocesan priests who profess the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience while supporting each other in their priestly ministry. He promoted fraternity among priests and greater spirituality in families. He died in 1988."

There is one error in America's notice: Father Agostino was not a member of our Secular Institute of the Priests of the Heart of Jesus. He was a member of a separate Italian secular institute called the Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This institute was founded by an Italian priest who was inspired by the writings of Father Cloriviere and Daniel Fontaine (our founder and "re-founder"). So even though canonically they are entirely separate from us, as spiritual sons of Father Cloriviere, they are our "cousins." One of their members attended our 2022 Assembly in Paris.



Short bio of the Italian Priests of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:

"The association was born in Milan in the mid-20th century, but is linked to the Institute of the Priests of the Heart of Jesus founded in 1791.

Already among the first companions of Pierre-Joseph Picot de Clorivière was an Italian Jesuit, Luigi Virginio (1756-1805) from Mondovì, professor of moral theology in Paris: after the restoration of fraternity in France (1918) by Daniel-Marie Fontaine, the Jesuit Ambrogio Maria Fiocchi had the idea of doing the same in Italy.

The foundation took place on September 2, 1950. Having obtained the nihil obstat of the Holy See (January 6, 1966), the institute was canonically erected by Cardinal Giovanni Colombo on the following June 9: it obtained the pontifical decree of praise on June 2, 1978. The institute experienced a rapid diffusion especially in southern Italy, also thanks to the activity of Father Giuseppe Peluso, S.J."

Take Time to Read About Steve Jobs' Three Questions (before life is over)

I received this article and want to pass it on, giving full credit to: 2-20-2023

Expert Opinion by MARCEL SCHWANTES, INC. Contributing Editor, Executive Coach, Speaker and Author @MARCELSCHWANTES

Six years before his untimely death, Steve Jobs dropped this bombshell of truth on our psyche: Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. The co-founder of Apple delivered these words to a newly minted class of Stanford University graduates in 2005. Not long before the commencement, Jobs had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was given between three and six months to live. Facing his own mortality had impressed upon him the importance of living the best possible life, and it was a message he passed on to the new graduates, and to the rest of the world watching.

3 questions you should be asking

1. Am I living the life that I want and doing the work that I want to do?

In the face of his looming death, something powerful shifted inside Jobs. He began to live each day as if it was his last–because it may have been. Thinking about the limited amount of time you and I have left on this earth isn't meant to be a downer. On the contrary, it empowers us to use that precious time in the most meaningful way possible.

Jobs called facing his death "the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life." Almost everything, he said — our fears, failures, and our pride — "fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important."

2. "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?"

This is a question that Jobs said he asked himself every day — while literally standing in front of his mirror — after being diagnosed with his terminal illness. Jobs said, "Whenever the answer has been no for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something." If I asked myself that same question every day during this stage of my life and career, the answer would be a resounding "yes!" I say this because I'm doing what I have passionately been called to do and I'm living out my purpose. I urge you to do the same.

Be willing to confront yourself and ask this same question when you start your day. Pay attention to what's coming up for you as you check in with your feelings. If you're being true to yourself, it can be frightening to admit you're not living the life you want, but it's the only way to pivot toward the pursuit of something new–something that may be your true calling.

3. Am I doing what I love?

As Jobs explains, living someone else's life is wasting your own. Instead, he urges you to find the role you were meant to fill. You've got to find what you love. … Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.

Doing what we love gives us purpose, which fuels our drive to get up in the morning and, in the words of Warren Buffett, "tap dance to work." Research published in *Harvard Business Review* concluded that to be fully engaged and happy, people need to feel as if their work matters and that their contributions help to achieve something important.

When people find purpose in their work, and they love what they do, it will not only improve that person's happiness, it will boost their productivity. To end on a hopeful note, if you don't know what it is you love to do, then I urge your first step to be finding out what it is you should be doing. Don't just take my word for it; it's what Steve Jobs would want you to do as well.



Come, Holy Spirit,
Fill me and my life!

Fr Francis Mawn, Jr, has entered Eternal Rest

Father Francis X. Mawn died on March 5, 2025, at the Regina Cleri Residence in Boston, where he had resided since 2023.

Father Mawn was born in Boston on August 8, 1947. He attended Sainte-Agathe School in Milton, at Sainte-Agathe Church. He attended high school at Holy Cross Preparatory Seminary in Dunkirk, New York. (This seminary was directed by the Passionist Fathers.)



He received his bachelor's degree from Boston State College and his graduate diploma in social work from Boston College. He worked in education and social work for several years, then entered the Pope John XXIII Seminary, a seminary for late vocations. He was ordained a priest on June 5, 1982 for the Archdiocese of Boston.

Prior to entering Pope St. John XXIII Seminary in Weston, he had worked in education and social work in the Boston area. Father Frank spent six years in South America as a missionary. Returning to Boston, he served in several Spanish-speaking parishes until his retirement in 2022. His health having weakened, he was transferred to the Regina Cleri residence for priests.

He was appointed a senior priest/retiree in 2021, but continued to reside in Lawrence and to help in parishes as he could. Faced with several health issues, he moved to the Regina Cleri Residence in 2023. After his death, one of his parishioners wrote, "What struck me was his laughter, his kindness, and his unwavering message of love and service to his neighbor."

Father Mawn was an active member of the SI of the Priests of the Heart of Jesus. He has held several positions, the most recent of which was that of treasurer until 2023. The oldest members of the Institute have excellent memories of Father Mawn. He is one more elderly member who now joins his confreres in Heaven . *-Fr Scott Jones*



Two members of Regnum Christi were happy to see the latest USCSI brochures "with a very clear explanation of consecrated life" that can be used anywhere.

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FLASH ANNOUNCEMENT

You are Cordially Invited to Come and Experience Our

National USCSI Gathering

Date: **Thursday, September 26—28, 2025**
Friday 6:00 PM to Sun 1:00 PM

Location: **Bons Secours, 1505 Marriottsville Rd, Marriottsville, MD**

Theme: **Hope of our Secular Institutes with a Future Vision**

Speaker: **Fr Jorge Torres, Executive Director of CCLV**



Panel: How do you live your vocation in a spirit of hope?

~Avoid burnout, deal with issues of closure, inviting new members and more



More Details to Follow in June

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- **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.
  - The 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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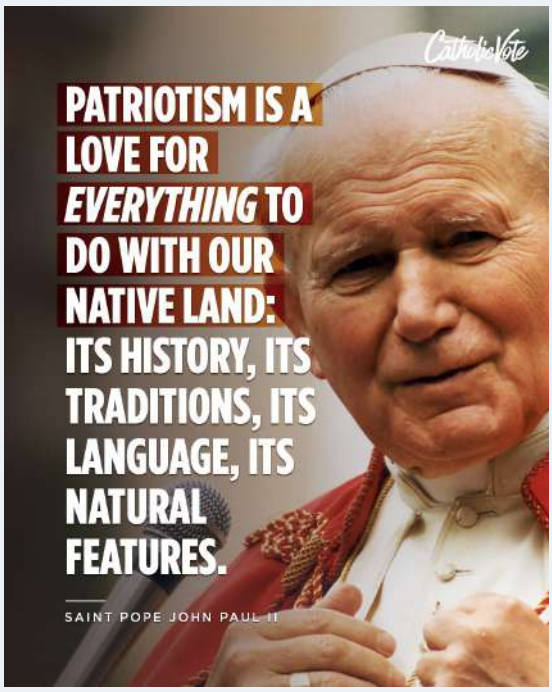
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- Contributions and photos for our Fall **Mountaineer** are due by September 30 to jessica@schsrsmary.org

Congratulations to All Graduates!





Happy 250th Anniversary Year to America!