



## An Invitation to... Year of Consecrated Life

*For the Weekend of November 15/16*



*“Evangelical radicalness is not only for religious: it is demanded of all. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up.”*

*Pope Francis*

Pope Francis has announced the Year of Consecrated Life to begin in November 2014 and we are all invited to participate. In making the announcement for the Year of Consecrated Life, it was explained the first objective would be to “make a grateful remembrance of the recent past,” the second objective “to embrace the future with hope” and the third “living the present with passion.” This passion, speaks of “being in love, of true friendship, of profound communion.”

In the Diocese of Cleveland we will be celebrating along with the universal church with a variety of activities including an opening liturgy, to be celebrated with Bishop Richard Lennon at 7:00 pm in the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Cleveland on November 21, 2014 and recognition of the opening of the Year of Consecrated Life in parishes at Mass the weekend of November 22nd and 23rd with the distribution of prayer cards for everyone.

We are all invited to participate in the Year of Consecrated Life as it will have an evangelical focus, helping us to realize “the beauty of following Christ” in the various types of religious vocations.

Throughout the year there will be opportunities for us to come together in prayer and participation with religious communities. The website, **[www.churchvocations.com](http://www.churchvocations.com)** will be used as the cornerstone of information and an opportunity for deeper communication for those who have an interest in religious life.

A video production will introduce the heart of consecrated life in the Diocese of Cleveland to facilitate encounters and build relationships with men and women religious and will be available in February 2015 when we will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life.

Presentations at Mass in parishes by consecrated religious in April and May will help educate and update the faithful about their way of life in present times.

Pilgrimages to congregational homes and ministry centers for religious are being planned from June through September 2015. This will be an opportunity for all of us to reflect on our spiritual journeys and to provide an opportunity to connect with religious communities.

Let us join together in prayer and celebration as we prepare for the Year of Consecrated Life.