

On the Year of Consecrated Life . . .

1. Dates of the Beginning and the Conclusion of the Year

First Sunday of Advent, the weekend of November 29, 2014, and ending on Tuesday, February 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated life.

2. Documents announcing the Year

From the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL):

[PRESENTATION OF YEAR FOR CONSECRATED LIFE: AWAKEN THE WORLD WITH PROPHETIC WITNESS THAT RECALLS THE WITNESS OF YOUR FOUNDERS](#)

Additional documents can be found on the CMSM special website for the Year of Consecrated Life (www.yearforconsecratedlife.com). You may also go to the CMSM website (www.cmsm.org). Click on the link on the home page and it will take you to a special page where resources for the year of Consecrated Life may be found.

3. Our CMSM special website

www.yearforconsecratedlife.com - Approximately 50 profiles of men in leadership are being added now. This website will include all of this information.

4. Observances common to the Church in the USA

Days with Religious negotiated and established in cooperation with the USCCB:

- **February 8, 2015: Religious Open House.** Events will include tours, open houses, receptions, family activities, and presentations on the history of religious communities at convents, abbeys, monasteries, and religious houses.
- **Summer 2015: Day of Mission and Service with Religious.** Events will include joining religious in their ministries or special service projects, such as assisting the elderly, ministering to the poor and homeless, and caring for the less fortunate.
- **September 13, 2015: Day of Prayer with Religious.** Events will include vespers, rosary, or holy hours in convents, monasteries, religious houses, parishes, and churches.

Suggestions for the observance of each of these days:

Prayers intentions, prayer cards, a video on consecrated life and other resources are available on the USCCB web site at: <http://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/vocations/consecrated-life/year-of-consecrated-life/index.cfm> .

5. **USCCB and the Use of Twitter**

USCCB is going to foster a social media hash tag for the year. We will be participating in it and have agreed to post something according to an assigned calendar. The use of Twitter or Instagram will allow the posting of photos or brief videos.

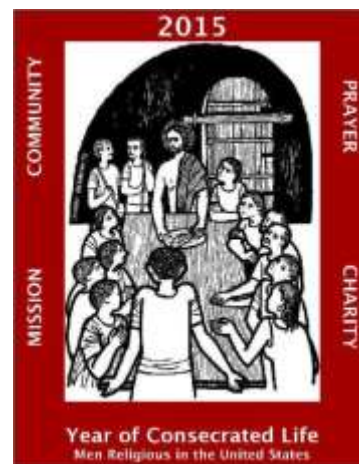
6. **Observances to be held in Rome**

- **Opening – Saturday, November 29, 2014, with a Prayer Vigil at the Vatican. Sunday, November 30, 2014, Opening Eucharistic Liturgy.**
- **An Ecumenical Meeting of Consecrated Men and Women, January 22 – 24, 2015.**
- **A Workshop for Formators and Vocation Directors, April 8 – 11, 2015.**
- **A Workshop for Youth and Young Consecrated Persons, September 23 – 26, 2015.**
- **An international symposium on “Following the Gospel, A Permanent Form of Life in the Church” will be held in Rome from January 27 through January 31, 2016.**
- **Closing – Saturday, February 1, 2016, with a Prayer Vigil at the Vatican. Sunday, February 2, 2016, Eucharistic Liturgy of the World Day of Consecrated Life.**

It is suggested that we imitate similar observances in the USA.

7. **Two Logos to be used:**

The common logo developed by the NRVC “Wake up the World” and the CMSM logo highlighting men:



8. **A calendar of our religious** who are honored as saints is being prepared for inclusion on our website: www.yearforconsecratedlife.com.

9. **NRVC sponsored events and materials.**

These will include the following: a packet of materials to be sent to each pastor in the US (through a grant from the Hilton Foundation); a video with an introduction from Archbishop Kurtz and with brief comments from laity about how religious have influenced their lives for the good. More information on the NRVC web site: <https://nrvc.net/275/publication/year-of-consecrated-life-2841> .

10. **The Hymn for the Year of Consecrated Life:**

Learn it; use it. Full score, melody and multilingual versions are available. These are also found on the NRVC website: <https://nrvc.net/275/article/song-wake-the-world-with-dawning-joy-5216>

11. **What do you need to do as a major superior or councilor now?**

- a. Make certain that all in your institute know the dates and observances for the Year of Consecrated Life.
- b. **Plan now** how your institute will participate in the **Open House on February 8, 2015**, e.g., which houses and/or which portions of your house might be open; who will greet visitors and how to prepare those greeters; how long you will be open that day; what materials you might share with people that day?
- c. **Plan now** how you will invite people to **share in some apostolate of your institute in the summer of 2015**. This could be a one day/one event/one task of service, or could be more than one of the above in differing locations.
- d. **Consider now** how you might welcome people for specific prayer in September of 2015. Determine the location for, the type of, and the extent of the prayer for that Sunday. Be aware that some local pastors may be sensitive to participation in their own parish – you might take the prayer and your members to them at a Eucharistic liturgy if you cannot arrange to have an afternoon vespers or holy hour, etc., at your own chapel or church.
- e. **Consider now** with your council **alternative special events**: invite **clergy and parish staffs** to your house for a social; if a seminary is near-by, invite **seminary staff and seminarians** to a visit to learn about religious life through a short address and sharing; invite **ecumenical religious** (Anglican, Orthodox, Lutheran) to share a meal and a brief common prayer; if your religious house happens to be large, you might **invite fellow religious to a joint day of prayer**; or, you might offer your place for a **gathering of young religious men** (or even of men and women).
- f. Ask your members **to learn the commissioned hymn** and to use it frequently. Send it to parishes where your members have a presence or serve. (NRVC will also send it in a packet to all pastors.)

- g. **Beginning now**, ask that your **individual ministries use both logos** throughout the year.
- h. **On your institute's website** list all of the ways in which you and your members will observe the Year of Consecrated Life. Provide a special note so that people do not have to search long and hard for it.
- i. Keep attuned to learn if Pope Francis will visit other American cities and if he will be able to pray with religious (perhaps in New York or in Washington).