



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

UNITED STATES | CANADA APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

February 2022

-For religious sisters and consecrated women-

We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Fr Joe SJ video, 1min [here](#)

Pope video, 1min thepopevideo.org

Reflection by Sr. Alicia Torres

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“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” (Is 7:14). Throughout salvation history, the Lord has delighted in giving us living signs, most remarkable among whom stands the Virgin Mary, Jesus’ own mother. I can only imagine what it must have felt like for her in those tender moments when she first caressed the Son of God in her own arms, drinking in the fragrance of His presence.

In their own way, religious sisters and consecrated women continue to carry the sweet fragrance of Christ into the world. Walking in the footsteps of Mary, they are called to reveal the love and mercy of God to a broken world, assuring every man, woman and child that this life is not all there is, a great Kingdom awaits us!

Yet, our time on earth must be well spent. Consecrated women stand faithfully with Christ as Mary did, receiving His love that enables them to bear fruit in the Church and world. They take their stand among the poor, children, refugees, college students, the sick, the elderly—the ‘greatest’ and the ‘least’. Their mission is not merely to satisfy physical or social needs, but ultimately to show by their lives that love is real, and love has a name: God.

The very same fragrance that drew Mary into deep union with Jesus draws consecrated women into loving service. Just as Jesus dwelt in Mary, He dwells in every person. Out of their own deep union with Jesus, consecrated women are able to sense and savor His fragrance in every person they are called to love as they share the fruit of their own love for Christ.

[Leader] Daily offering prayer: O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month—

FEBRUARY: For religious sisters and consecrated women. We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

Grace: We ask for the grace to support religious sisters and consecrated women well, to recognize and appreciate their vital role in the life of the Church.

[Reader 1] Scripture: After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it... Then the angel said to the women in reply, “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ Behold, I have told you.” ... And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.” (Matthew 18:1-2, 5-10).

[Reader 2] Quote: “All women religious, all consecrated women should live mystically, because yours is a marriage: yours is a vocation of maternity; it is a vocation of acting on behalf of Mother Church and of Mother Mary. But those who tell you this, they think that being a mystic is being a mummy, always praying like that... No, no. You have to pray and to work according to your own charism, and when the charism leads you to work with refugees, to work with the poor, you should do it, and they will call you “communist”; that’s the least of what they will say about you. But you should do it. Because the charism leads you to this. In Argentina, I remember a sister, she was provincial of her congregation. A good woman, and she’s still working... she’s nearly my age, yes. And she works against those who traffic youngsters, who traffic people. I remember, under the military government in Argentina, they wanted to put her in jail, putting pressure on the Archbishop, putting pressure on the Provincial Superior, before she became provincial, “because this woman is a communist.” And this woman saved so many girls, so many girls! And yes, that’s the Cross. What did they say about Jesus? That he was Beelzebub, that he had the power of Beelzebub. Calumny: be prepared for it. If you do good, with prayer, before God, taking on all the consequences of your charism and you go forward, prepare yourselves for defamation and calumny, because the Lord chose this way for himself!” (Pope Francis, *Address to the International Union of Superior General*, May 12th, 2016)

[Leader] Reflection questions:

How have women supported you in your faith development, are there specific people or moments that come to mind? How are you called to support religious sisters and consecrated women in their vocation of service? *[All: take 1 min in quiet reflection; 2 min to journal; and then share a with the group]*

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