Year of Consecrated Life 30 November 2014 – 2 February 2016



In his Apostolic Letter to all consecrated people Pope Francis gave an overview of the Year of Consecrated Life:

In response to requests from many of you and from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life, I decided to proclaim a Year of Consecrated Life on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church Lumen Gentium, which speaks of religious in its sixth chapter, and of the DecreePerfectae Caritatis on the renewal of religious life. The Year will begin on 30 November 2014, the First Sunday of Advent, and conclude with the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple on 2 February 2016.

After consultation with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and for Societies of Apostolic Life, I have chosen as the aims of this Year the same ones which Saint John Paul II proposed to the whole Church at the beginning of the third millennium, reiterating, in a certain sense, what he had earlier written in the Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Vita Consecrata: “You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also a great history still to be accomplished! Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things” (No. 110).”

**Aims of the Year of Consecrated Life**

1. To look to the past with gratitude

2. To live the present with passion

3. To embrace the future with hope

To read the full text of the Apostolic Letter and the detail of the Pope’s aims for the year, log onto: <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_letters/documents/papa-francesco_lettera-ap_20141121_lettera-consacrati.html>

**Year of Consecrated Life in Ireland**



Bishops welcomed the Universal Year of Consecrated Life which began on the first day of Advent. Bishops acknowledged the contribution and role of Irish religious both here in Ireland and around the world.

Bishops discussed the situation of vocations to the priesthood and to religious life in Ireland, with an emphasis on promotion. The Bishops’ Conference gave its support to a joint initiative with the Conference of Religious of Ireland, which will work to promote vocations in tandem with the Year of Consecrated Life and the 14th centenary of the death of Saint Columbanus. The project will run from 2 February 2015 until 20 February 2016 under the title ‘Take the Journey – Be the Joy of the Gospel.’

More information will be available on *Take the Journey* in due course. In the meantime please see the news section of www.cori.ie for events and updates on the Year of Consecrated Life.

**Videos on the Year of Consecrated Life**

* Video with Bishop Philip Boyce giving an overview of the Year of Consecrated Life. Log onto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZgwooXKKmZE&list=UUTzQBvHRPIw7i3PSQFbaOIw&index=4> to watch the video.
* Video in celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life: Religious from five different congregations in Ireland share how they discerned the call to their vocation. Log onto: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFRSRsmu1Xw&feature=youtu.be&list=UUbTxIlY18YLU6Lefiog8IXQ> to watch the video.

**Prayer for the Year of Consecrated Life**

O God, throughout the ages you have called women and men
to pursue lives of perfect charity through the evangelical counsels
of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

During this Year of Consecrated Life, we give you thanks
for these courageous witnesses of Faith and models of inspiration.
Their pursuit of holy lives teaches us to make a more perfect offering of ourselves to you.

Continue to enrich your Church by calling forth sons and daughters who,
having found the pearl of great price,
treasure the Kingdom of Heaven above all things.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

*\*All material presented above has been sourced from the Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference Website link for The Year of Consecrated Life -* [*http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2014/12/09/year-consecrated-life/*](http://www.catholicbishops.ie/2014/12/09/year-consecrated-life/)