



World Day for Consecrated Life

February 02, 2018

CALL TO PRAYER:

In 1997, John Paul II called for consecrated life to be promoted throughout the universal church. He declared February 02, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, to be observed as World Day for Consecrated Life. February 02 is also known as Candlemas Day, the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all people.

LET US PRAY:

Gracious God, we give you thanks for having called us to follow you.

By our baptism and religious profession, may we be continuously renewed and transformed into your likeness so that together with those we accompany we may recognize one another as neighbour. Amen.

READING FROM YOUR CONSTITUTIONS OR FROM VITA CONSECRATA:

“The quest for divine beauty impels consecrated persons to care for the deformed image of God on the faces of their brothers and sisters, faces disfigured by hunger, faces disillusioned by political promises, faces humiliated by seeing their culture despised, faces frightened by constant and indiscriminate violence, the anguished faces of minors, the hurt and humiliated faces of women, the tired faces of migrants who are not given a warm welcome, the faces of the elderly who are without even the minimum conditions for a dignified life.”

[VITA CONSECRATA #75]



PSALM 27 (excerpts)

There is one thing I ask of the Lord,
only this do I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to gaze on the beauty of the Lord,
to inquire at his temple.
--- and within his tent
I will sing and make music for the Lord.

O Lord, hear my voice when I call;
have mercy and answer me.
Of you my heart has spoken,
“Seek his face.”

It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.
Dismiss not your servant in anger;
you have been my help.

Do not abandon or forsake me,
O God, my Savior!
I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong;
be strong-hearted, and wait for the Lord!

SCRIPTURE Acts 4:32-35.

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God’s grace was so powerfully at work in them all, that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles’ feet and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

WORD OF THE LORD.

R: THANKS BE TO GOD.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

- Revisit the moment of your First Profession.
What is the grace of that moment that you carry with you today?
- Remember a person who epitomizes all that is best about being a member of your religious congregation. Give thanks to God for her/his presence in your life.
- How have you experienced the grace of being both *BLESSING* and *BLESSED*?

SHARING



OUR FATHER

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH



Leader: LET US PRAY:

R. Radiant God, we offer you our praise and thanks
for creating us and all of creation out of love.

L. You sent your Son, Jesus, as the Light of the World
to shine forth your goodness.

LIKE JESUS, YOU CALL US

to let our light shine by sharing our bread with the hungry,
accompanying refugees, migrants and immigrants and
working with others on issues requiring systematic change.

R. Consecrate us in prayer, community and ministry
so that others may come to know and love you.

L. Continue to bless our Church and world with women and men
who dedicate their lives to you through consecrated life.

ALL: LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE THROUGH US FOR OTHERS. AMEN.