Dear Friends,

The calendar tells us that the holidays are approaching fast. Ready or not, here they come. Black Friday sales have been around since the beginning of November this year, which means we can still enjoy our Thanksgiving Day without having to run off to find good deals. “Black” Friday is so named because the stores can earn enough to finish off the year in the black without debt or deficit.

We can take a cue from these economics to make sure our spiritual life is also running in the black. Are we giving Our Lord his due? Of course, we cannot match his gifts, but we can do the next best thing which is graciously receive his gifts and express our gratitude. Humans are a bit notorious for being able to give generously but it is much more difficult to accept gifts or favors. Why? Because then I have to admit that I am incomplete and need something from another. Even if that gift is not needed materially but just expresses love or friendship, or is a gift of gratitude for something we have given or done. I believe that is called humility.

Thanksgiving Day and its surroundings give us a wonderful opportunity to be honest with our Father in heaven and say, “Thanks! I needed that!” I needed the beauty of nature, I needed the joy of music, I needed a challenge to reach my potential, I needed a chiding to say “I’m sorry” or to forgive, I needed to experience your love and grace and mercy and wisdom.... I needed you to send your Son as my Savior.

At our national meeting in September we spoke about fostering vocations. We also need to thank for our own. We know that one call is not enough to sustain us for the rest of our life. We need to hear that call from Jesus over and over again, and we need to say “thank you.” Gratitude is the best petition, so thanking for our own vocation is, at the same time, a plea for the grace of perseverance and faithfulness. We cannot take that for granted. And our faithfulness to our own vocation is our best advertisement for the consecrated life.

Wishing you a grateful holiday season,

Marcia Vinje
Thirty delegates met at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona, from September 28-30, 2018, for their national meeting of the United States Conference of Secular Institutes. Vice-president Father George Hazler of the Voluntas Dei Institute gave a reflection on the theme: Accepting Acceptance – Being in the Present Moment. He reminded us that God accepts each person unconditionally, just as one is at the present. But most people have difficulty in letting themselves be loved. Too often one concentrates on past failures or future “should be-s” instead of encountering God’s love in the present. This was followed by Holy Mass and a social.

Saturday morning began with Morning Prayer. The keynote speaker for the weekend was Father Ralph O’Donnell, Executive Director of the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations at the United States Catholic Bishops Conference (USCCB). His presentation was inspired by the Synod for Bishops on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment which was held at the Vatican October 3-28, 2018. He stated that Christ is still calling “enough” vocations but do we hear his call and respond? Witnessing to youth and accompanying them one on one is so important to fostering vocations to the consecrated life.

At 10:00 am the Most Reverend Thomas J. Olmsted, Bishop of Phoenix and Episcopal Moderator of the USCSI, celebrated Mass with the conference participants. After a southern banquet and time for institutes’ meetings, we gathered at 2:00 pm for a continuation of Father Ralph’s presentation. Young people considering religious institutions are now using a different way to connect. We hear: I can take care of myself or I am spiritual, not religious. Often a historical quality is absent, we don’t have the sense of where do I come from and where am I headed collectively…. So from what we received, what can we give on to help meet these challenges?

Next, a panel of four institute members who are in the formation process shared how their institute’s charism helped them discern their vocation. Panel members included Joan Patten, Apostolic Oblate, Elizabeth Rockwood of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, and Prachi Shah who is pursuing the foundation of a new institute based on the Cistercian spirituality. Candidates of the Schoenstatt Fathers presented via technology. The question posed to panelists was: “What are the strengths and attributes of your institute’s charism to accompany youth on their way to faith and discernment?”

Joan Patten’s key words: Be available, authentic and accessible. Betsy Rockwood, widow and grandmother, wanted to consecrate the rest of her life to God but her age was against her. She wrote to several secular institutes and the OMMIs responded so she has found her place by perseverance. The Schoenstatt Fathers’ seminarians are led to a covenant of love with the Blessed Mother and a living contact with their founder-father. Prachi Shah who feels called to found a secular institute based on the Cistercian charism recommended 4 “D”s to help young people find their vocation: desire, dialogue, discernment, and docility.

On Sunday morning we attended the parish Mass and were very welcomed by the congregation. The business meeting re-elected Marcia Vinje, Schoenstatt Sister of Mary, as president, approved printing a brochure listing vocation contacts, discussed letters from the Apostolic Nuncio, Congregation for Consecrated Life, Conference for Vicars for Religious, and heard a CMIS update.
VOCATIONS COMMITTEE
October 2017 through May 2018
-Report by Kathy Tierney
Vocation Committee Chair

USCSI staffed exhibits
(Order your box of vocation materials today)
NCYC 2017 November 16-18 was held at Indianapolis with 25,000+ attendees.
Bi-Annual National Catholic Youth Conference. Great opportunity to educate not only high school youth but parents, teachers and clergy as well. Distributed USCSI magnets and printed materials. Educated through trivia game on secular institutes.

SLS18; FOCUS; January 2-6; Chicago 8,000 participants
Student Leadership Summit for Catholic college students already in ministry leadership positions. Many are vocations minded. This was the first year that FOCUS alumni and leaders in parish evangelization ministries were invited as well. Had great discussions, mostly with college students. Once again made use of trivia game to educate. Distributed USCSI magnets and printed materials.

2018 Los Angeles Religious Education Congress; March 16-18; Anaheim Convention Center with 37,000 attendees. It was great having so many SI members (from five different secular institutes helping at the booth, especially those who were bilingual. Educated lay, religious, and clergy. Distributed magnets and printed literature for USCSI and attending secular institutes.

VISION Vocation Statistics:
(see USCSI featured on pages 28-30!)
August 2017 thru April 2018 
146 Viewing of our online listing
67 Click thru to our website
42 Prospects sent to us via email which Kathy responds to personally.

From Mary-Cabrini Durkin:
(Check out her Face book)
November: Marie Chantal visited Cardinal Wuerl in Washington, had a wonderful conversation with him, and gave him Consecration and Secularity.
February 3 and 14: conversations with Joan Mckamey and Nicholle Check, editors at Pflaum's religious education department. Nicholle and I spoke at length; she promised to include secular institutes in the middle-school issue on vocations to consecrated life that will appear next fall.
March 27: RU Called dinner with exhibits and general program about life choices. I exhibited on behalf of the Company and USCSI. About 20 young women and girls attended. St. Francis de Sales Parish, Lebanon, Ohio, hosted. April 3-5: NCEA annual national convention in Cincinnati. Liliane and I exhibited on behalf of the Company and USCSI. About 4500 people attended, but the non-profit booths were not on the main drag. I have no way to know how many we spoke with directly. I did speak with several publishers. If anything comes of those conversations, I'll let you know.
June: I will visit Archbishop Dennis Schnurr of Cincinnati to give him a copy of Consecration and Secularity.
It was, once again, an honor to represent the US Conference of Secular Institutes at the Annual J.S. Paluch Vocation Seminar. “National leaders from vocation, evangelization, youth, young adult, and other related Catholic ministries met at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Rosemont, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, August 20-22, 2018, for the 31st annual J.S. Paluch Vocation Seminar, which is sponsored by the J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. The event began with an opening banquet on the 20th, followed by speakers and panelists on the 21st and 22nd. The format and focus allowed for deep discussions about the current challenges in the church.”

The keynote speaker was Bishop Frank Caggiano, who serves on the USCCB committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. Bishop Caggiano’s talk was with the context of the upcoming Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment.

Take away points:

Two primary obstacles for young people with regard to vocational discernment

1. Problems within the Church
2. The digital world
   • Young people have a much shorter attention span.
   • Bore easily and run from one experience to another.
   • More attracted to images than cognitive training (reading.)

Bishop Caggiano proposes that we attract young people to a life in Christ through BEAUTY.

1. Give them beautiful liturgies.
2. Holy Silence: Resist the urge to give them more to do. Ask them to do less
3. Tell them stories that inspire, especially about the saints.
4. Share the beauty of Catholic culture: art, music, literature and architecture.
5. Invite them to experience the beautiful diversity of the Universal Church (one of the factors in the success of World Youth Day.)
6. Encourage them to take pilgrimages to beautiful holy places such as shrines, tombs of saints and the Holy Land.

The challenge of vocation for young people:

1. Commitment to a community of faith: every community’s credibility is questioned.
2. Social media allows people to “hang out” with people like themselves, to seek the “perfect community” which is not the Church (or the world.)
3. Faith is a myth. Beliefs are a harness. Ritual is for people with no other habits.
4. I will find God MY way.

Bishop Caggiano suggests these ways help young people in discernment:

1. Accompany young people one person at a time:
   • Somebody has to be a bridge to the community.
   • Each person is different.
   • One person has to help the person across the bridge.
2. Ask the good communities to be the bridge to the future: allow people to ask the hard questions.
3. Always the road less traveled is the best road.
   • Tell them to deal with restlessness--don’t run from it.
   • We must be with them when they face it.
4. Reduce the busy pace of their lives.
5. Accompany them in ordinary events of life.
   • Don’t ask them to go to you.
   • Go to them.
   • Help them in quiet conversation.
6. Remind them: God is not made in THEIR image, they are made in GOD’S image.
7. Mary is the image of vocational discernment.
   Pray to her for intercession.
8. We HAVE to have AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY WITNESS.
   We are a surrogate FAMILY.

Fr. Ralph O’Donnell, Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, (see photo) reported on the annual CARA (Center for Applied Research in Apostolate) study on Religious Life. While we are not religious life, the information collected provides insight into what factors are involved in a young person’s vocational discernment journey. Two strong factors were participation in Eucharistic Adoration (73%) and personal encouragement from others. Main points:

Young people want...
1. a less institutional and more relational Church/welcome people without judging.
2. a friendly and proximate Church.
3. an ecclesial community that is like family.
4. a place where they feel welcomed, listened to, cherished and integrated.
5. people to help them understand vocation, and how to use their gifts.
6. radical AUTHENTICITY, regardless of age.
7. to make the world a better place, uphold humanity and seek to end suffering.

Paul Jarzembowski, Assistant Director for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, invited a panel of three young adults who participated in the writing of the Pre-Synodal Document. Take away points:
1. Make young people a part of the conversation. Don’t talk ABOUT them. Talk WITH them.
2. Learn how to communicate better via social media.
3. Give them responsibility and leadership. They want to make a difference.
4. Non-catholic young adults said we should not change Catholic teaching, just be AUTHENTIC.
5. Accompany young people. Be a mentor. They want a relationship, not another program.

With regard to vocational discernment, young people...
1. Don’t know what “vocation” means. They think it means priest recruitment.
2. Crave to know what their place in the world is, but don’t know how to get there.
3. Don’t have the words for what vocational discernment is.
4. Don’t feel like they have access to the tools for discernment or have anyone to accompany them.

I hope you take these comments back to your communities and discuss them. There are many young people who want to take a more active part in the life of the Church, even to surrendering their lives to consecrated life. Let’s try to meet them where they are at, whether it is on the street, online, or in the pew.
Each year the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (CCLV) sponsors a meeting with its CCLV Consulting Organizations before the Fall Plenary Assembly of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The location is at the Marriott Waterfront Hotel on the National Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland. I am privilege to attend for the US Conference of Secular Institutes We met on Saturday, November 10, 2018, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. This conveniently follows a 7:30 am Holy Mass in one of the ballrooms, and begins with breakfast and introductions. I was able to have the latest USCSI magnet and freshly printed vocation contacts brochure at each place.

Twenty five of us are seated at the large rectangle (two bishops came in later due to conflicting committee meetings). For these three years, Cardinal Joseph Tobin (Newark NJ) is the Committee Chair, supported by the Executive Director, Fr Ralph O’Donnell (from Omaha Diocese) and Fr Luke Ballman (from Atlanta Archdiocese), and the new Staff Assistant, Casey Brusahan. We totaled seven women this year with eighteen men. We broke into four small groups where we each offer a 3-5 minute verbal report of our conference to summarize the written page submitted in booklet; then discuss this year’s theme: How science and mortality is addressed with young people by those who serve in Church ministries; and then theoretically at least, with the remaining time, practical issues are brought up. Since some of you are not so familiar with these various church groups and since I haven’t had time for a detailed report for a number of years, please bear with me for going into detail.

**Clergy Small Group:**

**NFPC:** The National Federation of Priest Councils celebrated their 50th anniversary of founding in Chicago. They seek funding to continue the next phase of its Longitudinal Study on the Priest, emphasis on those who had been ordained ten years to next start the focus on those ordained for fifteen years and the challenges they encounter in ministry.

Of deep concern is the 4th time the Dallas Charter regarding the protection of Minors and Youth has not involved presbyterates from across the country in consultation prior to a vote taken by the USCCB. Bishops continue to make decisions regarding the life of priests and deacons with no input from those who are their closest collaborators in ministry. (As allegations of sexual abuse by Cardinal Theodore McCarrick against minors and seminarians and the grand jury’s findings in Pennsylvania become public, NFCP raises the issue of involving priests in the conversation along with other religious and lay participants of diocesan life in the review of bishops and their transparency of conduct.)

**NOCERCC:** The National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy assists Bishops and Provincials in the promotion of Continuing Education and Ongoing Formation of Clergy. Their four-day February Convention theme was: “Enjoying the Marathon: Priestly Vitality in the Muddle Years.” Their next convention will be in Austin 2019: “The Senior Moment: The Fulfillment of a Priestly Life.” Their next goals are to 1) Focus not only on Directors of Continuing Education, but the priests and deacons served by the directors 2) Focus on On-Going Formation 3) Evaluate if annual conventions are best way to support priests.

**ANSH:** Asociacion Nacional De Sacerdotes Hispanos / National Association of Hispanic Priests was founded 29 years ago to help Hispanic priests. Sixty-six priests from 37 dioceses and communities gathered at their annual convention in San Antonio and twelve attended their priestly retreat in Spanish.

**NADD:** The National Association of Diaconate Directors drew 3,000 Deacons, wives and family members to their New Orleans July Congress. Financial stability has improved and they are working on Mission Identity and Effectiveness Project 2019.

**Consecrated Life Small Group:**

**CMSWR:** The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious totals over 5,500 members from 110 major superiors in their membership. They have grants going for the second year of GIVEN (Catholic Young Women’s Leadership Forum);
their executive Committee travels to Rome in February to visit with various dicasteries; their educators workshop was on Interior Freedom in Formation; they give a three-week Summer Renewal Program at their House of Studies in Rome; and their annual convention theme in St Louis was: Leading with the Heart of Mary. Here is their Vision Statement: The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious will be a collaborative body of life-bearing women religious committed to “the full flowering” of religious life in the US by placing our collective feminine genius at the service of the Church and one another. CMSWR will be a wellspring of hope and a trusted resource for the ongoing revitalization of religious life and the new evangelization.

**LCWR: Leadership Conference of Women Religious** are embracing critical change to accompany members in their transitional stages (to final closures); creating spaces on the essential elements of religious life; honoring its increasingly diverse membership; and attending to internal organizational changes necessitated with shifting demographics. Also: translating into Spanish, French, Portuguese, and Korean, formation of virtual/in-person groups for members to engage in contemplative dialogues; hosted 800 at their Conference: Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion; annual Rome visits; hosting visitors and conference boards; and working on social justice issues of immigrant rights, non-violence; ecology; and human trafficking. They hire their executive Director for a three-year renewable term.

Sr. Carol Zinn said 80% of their 13,000 membership is in the end transition – only three of their presidents are in their 50s. So as the superiors are drowning in corporate duties of turning out the lights, we stress fully living their vocations and also to work on the leaders and care givers to be able to do it all “from the emergencies to the emerging.” Since many of our six leadership teams are consolidated into one, fear grew that their annual conference numbers would be down. No, the number rose. Why? The associate membership is coming alive, a movement of the Holy Spirit. So we decided a 2019 strategy of anticipatory leadership. We are a lighthouse seeing what wave is coming in next. Our God is a God of the Future. Their offered leadership workshops of hope are filled before advertised.

**NCVR: The National Conference of Vicars for Religious** hosted their 50th conference from Gratitude to Hope in March in Chicago. (Marcia wrote an article about this in our March Mountaineer.) The numbers of Vicars/Delegates for Religious change due to smaller numbers of religious in dioceses and financial constraints in some dioceses. There are 63 this year (87 in 2016). Although due to Sr Maryann Seton Lopiccolo’s personal letter to the delinquent dioceses, seven have made new offices available to their religious. NCVR sent a suggestion of an outline on the development of religious life through the ages to Cardinal Tobin for consideration as a supplement to the document *Ratio, Gift of Priestly Vocations.* Many have not had the experience of a religious sister or brother in their lives and have no clue to the historical and spiritual importance of religious life to the Church and nation.

**USACV: The United States Association of Consecrated Virgins** held their annual conference for 31 at Miami. Twenty-six attended their annual National Information Conference in Lansing. President Judith Stegman, writing her PhD on the Vocation of Consecrated Virgins, published *Volume Two, Discernment and Formation for the Vocation of Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World;* edits The Lamp newsletter to 500; bi-weekly e-newsletter; and began a Face book presence for their 256 membership. A major concern with the *Cor Orans* the directives for the document *Vultum Dei Quarere,* on women’s monasteries and the instruction “Ecclesiae Sponsae Imago” on the “Ordo Virginum,” is the document’s presentation of the essential prerequisite of bodily virginity as not necessary for consecration (88).

**USCSI: Here’s where our United States conference of Secular Institutes** belongs. We submitted our report highlighting our membership in 18 secular institutes with 285 members, including some 75 in formation across the USA. Fr Ralph O’Donnell was our speaker at our National Meeting in Scottsdale with 40 sharing insights on our theme: The Courage of Accepting Acceptance – Being in the Moment.” Our report also named the various exhibits and publications we have employed to bring our vocation to the awareness of more people.

**Vocations Small Group:**

**NCDVD: The National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors** welcomed 278 at their Annual Convention in Scottsdale electing a board of six priests and Mrs. Rosemary Sullivan as Executive Director. They published *The Art of Accompaniment* to help all those the Lord has called to journey with young people on their path of discernment, along with
their main goal of raising up new priests for the Body of Christ. In June they led a weeklong conference of Vocations and Seminary Formation in Ireland to 50 bishops, vocation directors, and seminarians.

NRVC: The National Religious Vocation Conference saw a 31% increase in membership from 2014 to 1,047 members from over 350 religious institutes and organizations from 23 countries. Via a grant NRVC will work with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to gather data on newer members from 2003-2018 on what attracts and sustains membership in religious life in comparison to newer entrants from 1994-2009 in the 2009 Study (available Feb 2, 2020). Last December they sponsored a prep meeting in Rome for the Synod last October; work with Ireland and the UK Vocations; and won 10 awards from the Catholic Press Association for their Horizon quarterly and annual VISION (Vocation Discernment Guide and Vocation Network.org). They hired a new development director and will hire a new Executive Director.

Serra: John Liston is Executive Director of Serra International, Serra’s National Council for the US, and the Serra International Foundation. Now more than ever, Serrans are embracing their role as lay promoters and supporters of vocations. Begun in 1934, there are over 15,000 members in 650 clubs, active in 38 countries across the globe. Last year they launched Serra SPARK (Serra Promotion and Resource Kits) found at www.serraspark.org; all can join their last Saturday of month Rosary for Vocations 9 AM EST; and grant information can be found at www.serrainternational.org/foundation.

Seminary Formation Small Group:

IPF: The Institute for Priestly Formation is based in Omaha to assist bishops in the spiritual formation of diocesan seminarians and priests in the biblical-evangelical spirituality of St. Ignatius Loyola. Alongside ten retreats they offer a training program in spiritual direction at Mundelein Seminary. They also guided 177 seminarians for a nine-week summer program from 65 different dioceses.

NACTS: The National Association of Catholic Theological Schools promotes communication and provides opportunities for professional collaboration with regard to issues in theological schools (such as curricula, methods of instruction, evaluation, outcomes, and formation evaluation). Their annual conference this year offered the theme of “The Vision of Pope Francis: Accompaniment in the Ratio” to 74 participants.

NACS: The National Association of College Seminaries hosted their June conference at Notre Dame University with the theme: Integrating Propaedeutic (means preliminary instruction) Elements into the College Formation Process: A Dialogue by College Formators. Bishop Cozzens spoke on Accompaniment in the Disciple Stage and Bishop Olson facilitated a listening session on their concerns including the addition of an extra year to a four-year college program in the Program for Priestly Formation.

CMSM: Conference of Major Superiors of Men offers Brothers’ Think Tank, new leaders’ workshops, and resources at a new office with new personnel in Greenbelt, Maryland. The theme of their national assembly for 200 was: Discerning Our Collective Witness: An Extraordinary National Convocation of Major Superiors. Here it was noted only 78% of membership participates in a Virtus check.

Maristin Father James Heft is the Alton Brooks professor of religion and president of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies at the University of Southern California since 2006. Before that, he was at the Maristin-run University of Dayton in Ohio, first as chair of the theology department, then senior vice president and university provost and finally chancellor. He asked aloud, “What then is the distinctive call of the lay male religious, who at receptions and cocktail parties are often asked why they didn’t go ‘all the way’ and become priests? To put it bluntly, the non-ordained brother is still without a place.” Heft said, “I know of few bishops who promote consecrated life with the same energy that they promote the ordained priesthood.”

So this rounds up the 16 collaboratory conference heads who next met for an hour in the large group format. Highlights of these reports presented to Cardinal Tobin include:

Clergy noted the attachment to social media produces a lost in our awe and wonder to God. Is digital learning as effective? For clear answers read Science, Faith and Reason by Fr. Robert Spitzer, S.J., Ph.D., the President and
co-founder of Magis. The disappearance of funeral Masses was noted, as cremation makes it easier “to just come together at Thanksgiving to bury Grandfather.”

Consecrated Life brought Pope Francis’ method of 1) meeting people where they are at 2) healing wounds and then 3) inviting to conversion; since the administrative tasks take over our gospel missions (which is the focus of our being). We need models on social media to deter the rise of anxiety, which stresses only your best face on the web – while suicide rates soar.

Vocations stated that grandparents are still the key to passing on the faith. There was a 60% decline in consecrated women these last 30 years, but right behind it is a 58% decline in marriages(!) To give hope – last year 200 sisters, 400 priests, and 8 consecrated virgins were accepted. Vocation Directors need more theology training to debate the science imperialism.

Seminary Formation highlighted that most from the I-Generation have had “everything brought to them” (this includes food, shopping, movies, games – since parents are terrorized to let their children go out into the world), so they are isolated. They never met a religious sister. Commercials are stressing bonding. Touch the next person as people today have an average of touching objects with people 25 times a day but they touch their cell phone 2,500 times a day. (So now one can purchase cell phones with a skin touch.) Seminarians are also perfectionists, since their parents didn’t allow them to fail. (There are trophies for everyone at award banquets and so on.) Science is proved by a fact that is perfect.

Themes for next year: Serra suggested Establish Peoples’ Faith in Institutions; Bishop Boyeau proposed Formation in Chastity; and Fr Richard Gabuzda would ask: How has the sex abuse impacted community.

Ending on a positive the example of two 80-year-old monks working in Peru was given. They told each other they would state with it till the end; but low and behold first two youth became interested in their work and by year’s end a community of fifteen was living and working with them. We are here because we know it is a consecrated life – the Holy Spirit is our power! –Editor, Jessica Swedzinski
In May 2018 the World Conference of Secular Institutes - CMIS - published statistics regarding the worldwide network of secular institutes. Due to the method of gaining information this data might not be absolutely accurate, but it at least gives an idea of trends.

CMIS has 184 member institutes of which 77 are of pontifical right; the rest are of diocesan right. Most of these were founded before Vatican II and in the years immediately following. Since 1980 there have been 53 canonically erected, only three after 2000.

The countries of origin for the institutes has been 81% in Europe, 12% in Latin America, 3% in Asia and 2% each in North America and Africa. By far Italy has the most secular institutes with 62, followed by France 26 and Spain 24. There are no secular institutes canonically founded in the USA, although the Secular Institute of PiusX was prepared in New Hampshire and subsequently erected in Canada.

The presence of secular institutes in countries around the world shows a different picture. Membership in institutes (based on 146 institutes that responded with geographical information) is distributed in this manner: Europe 59%, South America 16%, Asia 10%, Africa 8%, North America 7%. Of the 55 institutes in Africa there are 1600 members in 37 countries.

Of the members of CMIS 157 are institutes for women, 6 for laymen, 10 for priests, and 11 mixed with two or three branches. Of the 150 institutes that responded with membership numbers there are over 24,000 members of which 3,500 are in formation (15%).

-Arken from CMIS Statistics, May 2018

Africa is a large continent, with great diversity; and just such a diversity exists even within a particular country. Before welcoming vocations or starting a permanent presence, the local culture has to be well known and accepted. The family always remains a significant presence, so their agreement is necessary for entrance into an institute.

When discerning a vocation be aware of health issues and whether joining the institute would be a pious way of achieving social promotion, of reaching economic security, of helping one’s family, or even of leaving one’s country. Is it a quest for a less demanding consecrated life, or a second-best option after a failed attempt or a refusal in religious life? Will the person be able to be autonomous, to live as a true lay person and to support oneself in one’s own context? The geographic distance from the general/regional principal officers of an Institute might be an obstacle for discernment.

As much as possible, training should be undertaken in the country of the members, in their context which could be very different from the one of the foundation country. It is important to highlight positive elements of the member’s culture, and to bring out those which need to be purified. Points to include are underlining the dignity of women and promoting personal autonomy towards one’s family, one’s clan, and Church authorities. A good understanding of the constitutions and texts about the charism of the Institute might be difficult, because of translation issues.

The members usually live with their family, sometimes in small groups; it is very difficult for a woman to live alone. As much as possible, a member should support herself without depending on the support of the Institute; the family expects the financial support of its member who joined the Institute, and the support of the Institute itself, because solidarity is a strong African virtue. The authority of the elders of one’s family and the strength of local traditions may often remain important. You should instill the concept of authority as a service, with love and simplicity. To obey a non-African person is often easier.

-Summarized from CMIS, July 2018
STATISTICS

Source: Church’s Yearly Book of Statistics latest edition elaborated by Fides
in brackets variations compared with previous year: increase (+) decrease(-)

WORLD POPULATION - CATHOLICS

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<th>Catholics</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
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<td>228.435.000 (+ 6.265.000)</td>
<td>19.24 % (-0.18)</td>
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<td>3.25 % (+0.01)</td>
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<td>285.512.000 (- 240.000)</td>
<td>39.76 % (-0.11)</td>
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<td>10.453.000 (+ 245.000)</td>
<td>26.38 % (+0.02)</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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<td>1.299.059.000 (+14.249.000)</td>
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PERSONS/CATHOLICS PER PRIEST

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<td>Africa</td>
<td>26.247 (+271)</td>
<td>5.051 (+7)</td>
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<td>8.091 (+ 108)</td>
<td>5.156 (+74)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>45.648 (-264)</td>
<td>2.172 (-13)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4.067 (+ 66)</td>
<td>1.617 (+22)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>8.397 (+ 181)</td>
<td>2.216 (+52)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totale</td>
<td>14.336 (+ 254)</td>
<td>3.130 (+39)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ECCLESIASTICAL CIRCUMSCRIPTION – MISSION STATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Ecclesiastical Circumscriptions</th>
<th>Mission Stations with resident priest</th>
<th>Mission Stations without resident priest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>541 (+ 3)</td>
<td>349 (- 63)</td>
<td>79.031 (+ 135)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>1.094 (+ 3)</td>
<td>518 (+ 98)</td>
<td>22.435 (- 35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>541 (+ 3)</td>
<td>799 (+ 151)</td>
<td>39.737 (- 1.160)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>759 (+ 1)</td>
<td>432 (+ 364)</td>
<td>540 (+ 456)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>81 (=)</td>
<td>42 (+ 31)</td>
<td>744 (+ 91)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3.016 (+ 10)</td>
<td>2.140 (+ 581)</td>
<td>142.487 (- 513)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

BISHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Total Bishops</th>
<th>Diocesan Bishops</th>
<th>Religious Bishops</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>716 (+ 3)</td>
<td>508 (-2)</td>
<td>208 (+5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>2.019 (+ 34)</td>
<td>1.454 (+20)</td>
<td>565 (+14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>801 (+ 2)</td>
<td>610 (+9)</td>
<td>191 (-7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>1.685 (+11)</td>
<td>1.436 (+3)</td>
<td>249 (+8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>132 (-1)</td>
<td>82 (-3)</td>
<td>50 (+2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>5.353 (+49)</td>
<td>4.090 (+27)</td>
<td>1.263 (+22)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### PRIESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Total Priests</th>
<th>Diocesan priests</th>
<th>Religious priests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>45,229 (+ 1,181)</td>
<td>31,521 (+ 983)</td>
<td>13,708 (+ 198)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>122,447 (- 589)</td>
<td>84,829 (+ 180)</td>
<td>37,618 (- 769)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>66,018 (+ 1,304)</td>
<td>37,722 (+ 744)</td>
<td>28,296 (+ 560)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>176,557 (- 2,583)</td>
<td>124,948 (- 1,611)</td>
<td>51,609 (- 972)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>4,718 (=)</td>
<td>2,811 (+ 21)</td>
<td>1,907 (- 21)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>414,969 (- 687)</td>
<td>281,831 (+ 317)</td>
<td>133,138 (- 1,004)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### PERMANENT DEACONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Total Permanent deacons</th>
<th>Diocesan Permanent deacons</th>
<th>Religious Permanent deacons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>472 (+ 22)</td>
<td>433 (+ 36)</td>
<td>39 (- 14)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>30,405 (+ 842)</td>
<td>30,186 (+ 807)</td>
<td>219 (+ 35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>318 (+ 3)</td>
<td>216 (- 38)</td>
<td>102 (+ 41)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>14,677 (+ 145)</td>
<td>14,336 (+ 130)</td>
<td>341 (+ 15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>440 (+ 45)</td>
<td>438 (+ 47)</td>
<td>2 (- 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>46,312 (+ 1,057)</td>
<td>45,609 (+ 982)</td>
<td>703 (+ 75)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### BROTHERS AND WOMEN RELIGIOUS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Brothers</th>
<th>Women Religious</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>8,731 (- 50)</td>
<td>72,510 (+ 943)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>14,818 (- 503)</td>
<td>168,178 (- 3,775)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>12,320 (- 373)</td>
<td>171,829 (+ 533)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>15,390 (- 614)</td>
<td>239,373 (- 8,370)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>1,366 (- 64)</td>
<td>7,555 (- 216)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>52,625 (- 1,604)</td>
<td>659,445 (- 10,885)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### MEMBERS OF SECULAR INSTITUTES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continent</th>
<th>Members of secular institutes Male</th>
<th>Members of secular institutes Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>94 (+ 2)</td>
<td>1.125 (+ 113)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>174 (- 77)</td>
<td>5,416 (- 33)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>55 (+ 4)</td>
<td>1,857 (- 35)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>294 (- 8)</td>
<td>13,964 (- 502)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oceania</td>
<td>1 (=)</td>
<td>38 (- 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>618 (- 79)</td>
<td>22,400 (- 459)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please pray for the soul of Caridad Baradas who was called to her eternal home on June 30, 2018, with a sudden brain aneurysm. Born August 30, 1940, Visayas, Philippines, she joined Madonna della Strada, and could offer a home to other members here in the USA. For over 20 years she enjoyed teaching at two ESL schools in New York; working as the RCIA Director of St Joseph Church; and the Adviser of Filipino Apostolate at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Hackensack, New Jersey. In October 2017 she went home for good to her beloved Philippines. Judy Salcedo visited her in March, as plans were made for her to join in the Madonna della Strada Secular Institute established in Manila. Pearline Archer knew her as a humble, soft spoken, caring person. May she rest in peace and be an intercessor for many and good vocations across the globe.

On October 8, 2018, the Eternal Father unexpectedly called Carol Winkler home into eternity. Born in 1932 in Eichenbuehl, Germany, one of her brothers became a Schoenstatt Diocesan Secular Institute priest and one brother died in the war. Carol entered the Secular Institute of the Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary on May 12, 1954, and arrived in August of 1956, at Madison, Wisconsin. Here she was able to meet Schoenstatt’s founder, Fr Joseph Kentenich and she worked as formatter and in leadership from 1963-1991, followed by over 20 years as pilgrim guide at Waukesha, WI, retreat center. For decades since its beginnings in the 1960s, Carol was very involved in building up and expanding the United States Conference of Secular Institutes. She held various leadership positions in this organization and helped to establish it as credible work within the Catholic Church in the USA. She traveled a great deal and made many contacts with church authorities and dedicated USCSI members. Carol loved to serve. Her mission zeal, outgoing joyful personality and uplifting smile were simply contagious. Four Secular Institute priests concelebrated her funeral Mass. May she intercede for us from heaven.

This Synod is “an injection of hope.” Let’s work together “to help the world become a better, more just, and more humane place.” This is the exhortation of Cardinal Gerald Cyprien Lacroix, Archbishop of Quebec in Canada, (Pius X Secular Institute, former Principal Officer) in a video released October 13, 2018. Zenit News

Welcoming a new member was the highlight of the annual meeting for the Company of St Ursula. Heather received a medal of Saint Angela Merici and now embarks on the “initial journey,” a two-year process of formation that prepares the new member for her first consecration. The Mass and reception ceremony took place in the chapel of St. Walburg Monastery in Villa Hills, Kentucky, on Saturday, October 6th.

On the morning of Sunday, October 14, 2018, in St. Peter’s Square, before a crowd of nearly 80,000 people, Pope Francis presided over holy Mass for the canonization of seven saints. Pope Paul VI was raised to the honors of the altar. Hopefully in the future he will be honored with the title petitioned to Pope Francis as: The Patron of Secular Institutes. Zenit News
With a special hymn during his consecration to Mary in the Covenant, Hartford has a new Bishop. Fr. Juan Miguel Betancourt Torres was ordained a bishop for the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut, on October 18, 2018, at its Cathedral of St. Joseph. Ordained a priest on April 21, 2001, he presently served on the faculty of St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity in St. Paul, Minnesota, as Vice Rector of Formation, Associate Academic Dean and Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture. He was also the Pastor of the Church of St. Francis de Sales of St. Paul in St. Paul, Minnesota. Bishop Betancourt is a member of the Society of the Servants of the Eucharist and Mary, presently serving as Vicar General. It is a contemplative community founded in Puerto Rico centered on Eucharistic adoration and Marian consecration.

—Editor, Jessica Swedzinski

Twelve Reasons to Hire an Older Worker

November is National Family Caregiver month and an important time to recognize these unsung superheroes. In Minnesota alone, there are an estimated 585,000-736,000 caregivers providing $8 billion a year in uncompensated care. Nearly 15 million family members, friends, and neighbors care for a loved one with Alzheimer’s disease or another form of dementia, providing an average of 21 hours of care per week. Good self-care, including connecting to others and accepting help, can be key ingredients to maintaining a positive care giving experience and avoiding burnout.

Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for all sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen.

-St Gertrude, a mystic who saw purgatory

USCSI Mission Statement
The USCSI shares in the mission of Jesus Christ in serving its member institutes by providing education, resources, and support for member institutes.

The USCSI is an organization of member institutes committed to making known, understood, and appreciated the call to consecrated secularity in the Catholic Church.

USCSI collaborates with other groups to present consecrated secularity as a viable option in today’s Church. Please Visit: www.secularinstitutes.org

Ask if you would like a copy or more of the USCSI Vocation Contacts Brochure: jessica@schsrsmary.org

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Vice-Pres:  Fr. George Hazler from Troy, MI  gfh141@gmail.com

Secretary:  Jessica Swedzinski from Waukesha, WI  jessica@schsrsmary.org

Treasurer:  Evelyn Loyola from Merced, CA  neneloy@aol.com

Councillor: Claudette Cyr from Watertown, Ct  cfycr@yahoo.com

Consider sharing a news brief from your institute for our next Mountaineer by December 10, 2018.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!