



The Mountaineer

From the President's Desk

August 2024

Volume 17, Issue 2

Dear Friends,

The theme of our annual conference which will be held the weekend of September 20th to the 22nd, 2024, at the beautiful San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, California, is **Secular Consecration: Falling in Love Again**.

What does falling in love suggest to us? The engagement of the heart and the mind in the direction of a beloved object. Most of us have experienced falling in love. What happens to us? We are absorbed with, we think about, meditate upon the object of our desire. And then we look to please. And this is what the Church is emphasizing in its three-year Eucharistic Revival: our falling in love again or more intensely with the Source of all love - Jesus Christ, present in body, blood, soul and divinity in the small piece of bread known as the Eucharist and carrying that in mission every day to everyone we meet.

A culmination of this was the National Eucharistic Congress which took place July 17th through 21st in Indianapolis. The USCSI had a booth with several members in attendance, led by Jessica Swedzinski and Kathy Tierney. (More on that later in this newsletter.) While not able to attend the conference I took part in the Elizabeth Seton route here in Manhattan as we accompanied Jesus through the skyscrapers to the Brooklyn Bridge.

As the purpose of the Eucharistic pilgrimage and congress was to stir the fires of love within each of our hearts, so the theme of our conference at San Damiano is reflecting on our own **Secular Consecration: Falling in Love Again**. Presentations will be led by our Vice President, Fr. John O'Neill and former president and councilor Fr. George Hazler. In attendance as well will be our Episcopal Moderator, Bishop Mark Rivotuso.

The opportunity to be together in San Damiano and to pray together at this annual conference in September is a gift which we give to each other. Surely the Holy Spirit will be there to fan the fires of fervor in each of us in our unique call to serve the Lord in the state of consecrated secularity. And thus inspired to carry our mission forward. Sign up now if you haven't already!

In Christ and His mother, Sue

Happy Labor Day Weekend



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Historic Eucharistic Walk Forms a Cross Across the United States of America! + Four Routes + 60 days on the Road + 1,000 Hosts + 6,500 Miles Traveled + + With over a Quarter of a Million People Participating +

Marian Route (North) started at Mississippi Headwaters, Lake Itasca, MN

The northern arm of the Pilgrimage descended through the mid-western United States, through Wisconsin and Illinois, and met up with the other three pilgrimage routes at the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis.



On Memorial Day I took part in a 5-mile Eucharistic Procession from St. Paul Seminary to the Cathedral of St Paul, MN. I pondered the sacrifice of Jesus and the sacrifice of soldiers who fought for our freedoms, all while bringing the gift *Jesus in Eucharist* to the streets of our state's capitol and the heart of Christ to the heart of the world. About 7,000 people participated in the procession. -Natasha Sager



St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Route (East) started in New Haven, CT

The eastern arm of the Pilgrimage began near the Atlantic coast, journeyed through our nation's oldest diocese, and crossed the Appalachian Mountains, through Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Sue Larkin participated in the Eucharistic pilgrimage at St Patrick's Cathedral with Cardinal Dolan. Jesus was carried over the historic the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City.



St. Juan Diego Route (South) started in Brownsville, TX

Departing from the tip of Texas, walkers wound around the Gulf of Mexico, and passed through New Orleans and the southeastern region of the United States on its way to Indianapolis.

Schoenstatt Sisters joined in Corpus Christi and Refugio, Texas



St. Junipero Serra Route (West) started in San Francisco, CA

From our Pacific coast, the western arm of the Pilgrimage crossed the Rocky Mountains and Great Plains. Named after the "Apostle of California," this was the longest and most challenging route—covering over 2,200 miles! 4,000 walked behind Jesus on the Golden Gate Bridge.



The National Eucharistic Congress by Kathy Tierney



Jesus - At the heart of it all! It was often standing room only at the perpetual adoration chapel. This is my parish, the cathedral-size St John the Evangelist Catholic Church, directly across the street from the Indiana Convention Center, which hosted the 10th National Eucharistic Congress.



Your Exhibitor Staff of the US Conference of Secular Institutes working hard at our colorful booth #938. There were 373 booths in the Exhibit Hall; of these 96 promoted forms of Consecrated Life.



More than 55,000 people attended the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Tens of thousands lined the streets of the downtown capitol, waiting for their turn to fall into line behind the Blessed Sacrament as it passed by during the public Eucharistic Procession on Saturday afternoon.

Kathy's Hometown Indianapolis View from the Eucharistic Congress ... *continued*



It was as if nobody was a stranger to anyone. Here (at left) a religious sister helps out a mother of twins while they wait in the confession line.

Secular Institutes share vocation at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress

There was hardly ever a break during the expo where the US Conference of Secular Institutes educated hundreds about our vocation. It was a blessing to be present at the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis July 17-21, where Catholics of all vocations and walks of life gathered at America's Crossroads to adore, praise and grow deeper in their love and understanding of the Eucharistic Presence. Over 55,000 people attended the Congress and many stopped by our booth with curious faces and asking, "What are you all about?"

It seemed as if we never stopped talking to people, no matter how many of us there were. Jessica Swedzinski and Ann Astell (Schoentatt Sisters of Mary), Christine French (Apostolic Oblates), Karen Brukewitz (Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ) and Kathy Tierney (DeSales Secular Institutes) provided personal testimony and literature from the catechism and from the various secular institutes. Most people were fascinated by our vocation and asked for information to take back to their parishes.

It was especially meaningful for me since it took place in my hometown of Indianapolis and my parish church, St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, became the perpetual adoration chapel throughout the duration of the Congress. During my volunteer shift there at the sound board in the late afternoon and early evenings, it was standing room only. It was particularly moving to see small children take roses up to the foot of the monstrance during the Family Adoration Hour, and then kneel before the Lord in loving, childlike adoration. To see so many walks of life represented, priests, bishops, religious, lay people, married couples, children, parents with babies, people from other countries, was truly a blessing of visible unity.

By Kathleen Tierney, DeSales Secular Institute



Kathy is the powerhouse with our USCSI involvement with vocation promotion. She pioneered our FOCUS-Seek and NCYC conferences. It is a delight to work with her as she takes care of all details in her Indy hometown. St John's is in the background as she serves us lunch-to-go. —Editor



A LITTLE TASTE OF HEAVEN BY MARY GRACE LASQUETY

"In Indy as in Heaven" was the sign outside that attendees of the 10th National Eucharistic Congress saw after leaving the Lucas Oil Stadium mid-July. It honestly did feel like a little taste of heaven. There were no specific expectations, but the time in Indianapolis far exceeded any expectation that could be imagined.



Personally, what struck me the most was that the entire congress felt like a beautiful collaboration between heaven and earth. A Pew study was done years ago, and in response to a strikingly low number of Catholics that actually believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the bishops virtually unanimously agreed on what became the Eucharistic Revival that started in 2022. In response to this, a committee led by Bishop Andrew Cozzens from the Diocese of Crookston, Minnesota began to organize a nationwide Eucharistic Revival. What began in prayer translated throughout the parishes and dioceses and culminated nationally in a spectacular gathering of 60,000 attendees in Indianapolis where it seemed apparent that heaven had heard the prayers of the faithful and eager to respond. The Holy Spirit was on fire—seasoned speakers almost could not contain themselves.

Repentance emerged as a theme during the congress and of its pivotal role in a successful Eucharistic revival. Everyone was called to search their hearts and ways for the areas in our life that "have extinguished our fires" as Fr. Mike Schmitz said. We were coached on how to practically evangelize by sharing our love for the Lord and not necessarily the expansive theological knowledge that we may not have by Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers. In fact, it seemed like the Olympians of catholic speaking were all in top form! There were numerous sessions based on topics of interest that you could attend outside of the catholic booths (which included one for Secular Institutes) and a relic exhibit and a Shroud of Turin exhibit amongst others. Every night there was a holy hour. Imagine almost an entire football stadium in quiet adoration of the Eucharist. It was powerful. People seemed to present their needs to the Lord and just worship and adore him. Imagine seeing people of all ages on fire for the Eucharist and seeing young people (or at least young at heart) run up to the stage enmasse to sing songs of praise and worship. I would not have been able to imagine it if I did not see it with my own eyes. The entire event was inspiring and enkindled hope. There was a deep feeling of gratitude for our bishops and all the people and parts that make the church whole and universal.

At the finale, we were encouraged to be Eucharistic Missionaries as Mary was and even to "Walk with One" where we are invited to spiritually accompany someone we know. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress ignited a lot of zeal, and undoubtedly planted many seeds. I, for one, am very excited to see where and how they grow! For more information, many of the talks are already on YouTube and a complete collection of all recordings or for guidance on how to be a part of the renewal, the National Eucharistic Congress's official website is a comprehensive resource if you missed it, want to re-live it, or still be a part of it.

Sharing from the National Eucharistic Congress



What impressed me most throughout the Eucharistic Congress as I watched coverage via EWTN, were the moments of communal prayer. Especially when Our Lord's presence in the most Blessed Sacrament was in our midst, there was the descending of the Holy Spirit to enkindle reverence in the sacred atmosphere, to inspire awe-filled adoration in His presence, and to bring us in unity with one another in faith, hope and love.

It was an awesome experience that only the Holy Spirit could bring to blossom in the midst of so many, many people. And this communal spirit of love began in the Eucharistic Processions throughout our country until they came to the center of the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. We are privileged to be part of so great a gift richly bestowed upon us in Christ Jesus and in the heart of Our Blessed Mother.

—Ellen Marie Baranek

Our decals designed and printed for the Congress were an instant favorite on many objects for young and old.



My aunt gifted many a Birthday or Graduation card with "Three Holy Masses with Holy Communion offered for you." At the Congress Opening Mass with Cardinal Dolan, I thought of how Jesus wants to be personally talked with, how Jesus waits for us to bring him our loved ones and all of our petitions. What a gift of love that can never be measured!

As we were sent out, Bishop Cozzens asked each of us to choose *One Person to Walk With* until July 16, 2025, who needs to come back to believing in the Eucharist.

Chris Stefanick shared: **two-thirds of God's name is GO**. God sends us as secular institute members to go and change the world with Jesus' Love. —Editor



At the final Evening Revival Session at Lucas Oil Stadium, Jonathan Roumie (*The Chosen*, the most successful crowd-funded TV series or film project in history) read from John Chapter 6, Jesus the Bread of Life.



VOCATION WORK "FROM OUR TROOPS ON THE FIELD" Before and After

Hi, all. I am assisting with a vocations retreat for women this coming weekend, April 19-21, 2024, for the Archdiocese of Atlanta. I am speaking on Sunday, about my own journey and our Institute, and about concrete steps in discernment. Will you pray for the 21 women attending, and the consecrated women that will minister to them? If you'd like to "cover" us with a Holy Hour of adoration, I've attached a sheet to sign up for that - you would pray wherever you normally do so, but offer a specific hour for this. **-Heather Triggs**
"He asks for your own heart. Give it such as it is ... -St. Francis de Sales



Thank you, Heather, for spreading the news of your DeSales Institute and of all Secular Institutes.

Franciscan University, Steubenville, OH, will host a Vocation Fair on October 11 and NCYC returns to Long Beach, CA, November 14-16. Plan to come to Seek25 Jan 1-5, 2025, in Salt Lake City or Wash. DC

This E-Letter Message was sent from ursulines.usa@gmail.com April 20-21, 2024 by Mary Cabrini Durkin

"Vocation," wrote Thomas Merton, **"does not come from a voice 'out there' calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice 'in here' calling me to be the person I was born to be."**

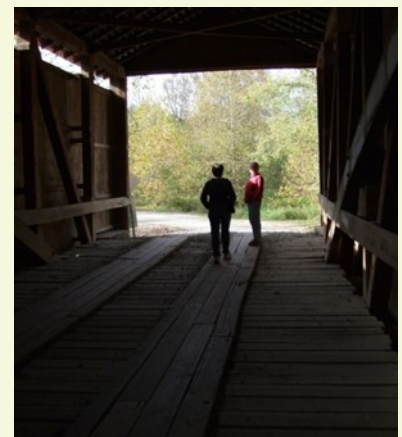
Please Pray with Us

We invite all our friends to pray with us for those women who may be called to follow Jesus along St. Angela's path with us. May a desire to seek the meaning of their lives, revealed in their vocation, lead them wherever God calls.

<https://companyofstursula.org/what-can-i-expect-discernment/vocation>

Our prayer includes those called to ordained life, the many forms of consecrated life, marriage, and lay life lived in the world. May all find the precious and sacred place where they can most fully love and allow themselves to be loved.

Let's Pray! Father, Son, and Spirit, instill in my heart and in the hearts of all the baptized the will to give ourselves to you and to humanity. May your Church shine with the beauty of all vocations. Amen!



Priests of the Heart of Jesus

The Priests of the Heart of Jesus held their annual retreat from July 28-August 2, 2024, at Mary, Mother of the Redeemer Retreat House in Bloomington, Indiana. The retreat director was Father Guerric DeBona, OSB, from Saint Meinrad Abbey.



During the retreat Father Richard Watson professed first vows, Father Paul Niemann renewed vows, and Father Peter Faimega made Oblation (i.e. began novitiate). The institute continues to grow and we are very grateful.



Fr Scott Jones, Episcopal Vicar, Northern Vicariate, Archdiocese of St Louis, asked for continued prayers for their Principal Officer, Fr Enrique Sera, Los Angeles, who is battling leukemia.

Ada Locatelli Elected at Chapter

The Fr. Kolbe Missionaries of the Immaculata experienced a special time with their 10th Ordinary General Assembly from April 14-28, 2024. Being an election assembly, the new General Directress, Elisabetta Corradini was elected. She will be assisted by her General Council of 4 and the General Administrator.

It was a time of grace, joy, celebration and a special outpouring of the Spirit with the presence of 26 Missionaries and 4 Volunteers of the Immaculata from various countries where the Institute is present: Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, and the United States.

The theme that opened and guided the work of the assembly: *Abide in the Streets, Care for Humanity* summarizes the path traveled by the Institute in recent years and indicates its future horizons.

Breaking News: Ada Locatelli from West Covina, California, has been elected to the General Council. After serving 24 years of mission in the United States, Ada flew to Rome at the beginning of June.

Back in 1984, Ada accompanied Fr Founder Luigi Faccenda on his first visit to the FMK newly opened mission in West Covina. It was there where the Immaculata so graciously brought her vocational search into greater clarity from the MI youth group to join the secular institute. And return she could, in the year 2000. Ada is most grateful: "I thank the Immaculata for every single moment I have spent here" at St Christopher Church. And we at USCSI thank Ada for all that she has brought and given to our conference over this past quarter of a century. Of course we do look forward to working together and interacting in the years to come.



The Importance of Holy Mass

THE LOVE OF THE SAINTS FOR HOLY MASS AND EUCHARIST

This meditation is taken from a blog by Fr Ed Broom, OMV, Hawaiian Gardens, CA <http://fatherbroom.com>

One of the principal reasons why so many people exit the Catholic Church to enter another religion, give in to the slavery of vices and addictions, or even categorically deny the existence of God is because they never understood the most sublime reality, dignity, and excellence of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Ironically, the biggest religious group in Europe, Latin America, the Philippines, as well as the United States are Catholics, but this must be underlined—*non-practicing Catholics!*

The multiple pastoral approaches to returning these lost and wandering souls are many. However, maybe we can start with ourselves by studying the essence of the Mass and cultivate a real love for Holy Mass. Then, once we are convinced of the sublimity of Holy Mass and our hearts are burning, set on fire for every Mass, from that we will be able to ignite the smoldering embers of lukewarm or non-practicing Catholics with a new dynamic energy.

Why was it that the Catholic Bishops of the United States launched a three-year program on the topic of Holy Mass and Holy Communion? The response could not be more obvious: all too many Catholics do not attend Holy Mass. One of the principal reasons? Put bluntly, crass ignorance of what Holy Mass is and what is going on in Holy Mass.

Athletes will exert all of the energy in their bodies to win the prize. Students will burn the oil at night to excel in academics. The avaricious Scrooge type will bend over backwards to pocket an extra dollar. The Romeo will expend all that he has economically, emotionally, and even poetically to win the hand of his beloved Juliet.

In a parallel sense, should we not exert every fiber of our being to love Holy Mass, attend Holy Mass frequently, and thereby receive the most sublime Gift in the world—the Lord Jesus in Holy Communion? Indeed, one Holy Communion is worth more than the whole created universe because Holy Communion is God Himself—the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus, the Son of the living God.

Meditate on what some of the saints have expressed in human words about the sublime greatness of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—the greatest Miracle beneath Heaven itself! The saints are God's favorites, but also our dear friends.

THE LOVE OF THE SAINTS FOR THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

1. *"When Mass is being celebrated, the sanctuary is filled with countless angels who adore the Divine Victim immolated on the altar."* (Saint John Chrysostom)

Please view the movie "El Gran Milagro" or "The Greatest Miracle." God's angels will give you a wonderful tour and detailed explanation of Holy Mass. This can be seen in just over an hour and it is well worth your sixty minutes. Then encourage others to see the movie, especially lukewarm Catholics.

2. *"If we really understood Mass, we would die of joy."* (Saint John Vianney—the Cure of Ars) Sadness invades the soul absent of God! Joy radiates from the soul replenished with God. Emmanuel means *God is with us*—especially in Mass and Holy Communion.

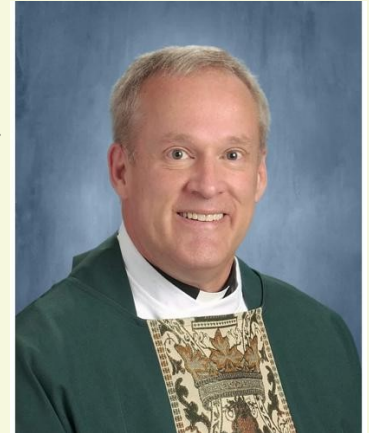
3. *"The angels surround and help the priest when he is celebrating Mass."* (Saint Augustine)
Let us make a constant and concerted effort to pray for more vocations to the priesthood, but holy priests, to sanctify the people of God through Word and Sacrament.
4. *"It would be easier for the world to survive without the sun than do without the Mass."* (Saint Padre Pio)
As the sun warms our bodies and enlightens our path, likewise, Mass and Holy Communion enlightens our minds and set our hearts ablaze with the Fire of Divine Love. Jesus came to set the world on fire with the love brimming over in His Sacred Heart truly present in every Mass, but most especially in every Holy Communion.
5. *"Put all the good works in the world against one Holy Mass, they will be as a grain of sand beside a mountain."* (Saint John Vianney) Our works, prayers, and sacrifices, even done by the most holy of saints, are still the works of man. However, every Mass offered, even if it were by a sick priest in a prison cell, is the work of God. Every Mass has infinite value and human words fall short of explanation!
6. *"No human tongue can enumerate the favors that trace back to the Sacrifice of the Mass. The sinner is reconciled with God; the just man becomes more upright; sins are wiped away; vices are uprooted; virtues and merits increase; and the devil's schemes are frustrated."* (Saint Lawrence Justinian) These few but poignant words of Saint Lawrence express the infinite power and efficacy of Holy Mass. In a word, the quickest Highway to holiness is to participate fully, actively, and consciously in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
7. *"The Eucharist is my Highway to Heaven."* (Blessed Carlo Acutis) We can become great saints and quickly, if we choose the Highway to Heaven—frequent and fervent Holy Communion.
8. *"How happy is the Guardian Angel who accompanies a soul to Holy Mass."* (Saint John Vianney) A simple suggestion: let us beg our Guardian Angel for the grace to avoid wandering eyes during Mass, but to have perfect recollection.
9. *"When we receive Holy Communion we experience something extraordinary—a joy, a fragrance, a well-being that thrills the whole body and causes it to exalt."* (Saint John Vianney) How true, even our physical body, at times, experiences a true rejuvenation and revitalization upon receiving the Body of Jesus with great love and devotion. Saint Faustina experienced a strengthening of her lungs after receiving Jesus, the Divine Physician, in Holy Communion while sick in the Infirmary!
10. *"I believe that were it not for the Holy Mass as of this moment the world would be in the abyss."* (Saint Leonard of Port Maurice) How true! With his arms elevated on high by Aaron and Hur, Moses helped the Israelites to prevail in war and conquer their enemies. Likewise, in the case of our present world, it is Jesus lifted on high in the hands of the priest in the Holy Eucharist in the Holy Sacrifice of Mass that saves the world from utter destruction.

Fr Broom continues:

First, fortify your own faith, love, and devotion towards the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, as well as hunger and thirst for frequent and fervent Holy Communion. **Set your hearts on fire for Jesus, the Bread of Life.**

Second, **make an effort to bring back a lost soul, a wandering sheep**, every month. May Our Lady who said *YES* to God and received the Incarnate Word in her pure womb, motivate us to move in haste to bring others to our Eucharistic Lord in our great love for God!

Fr Michael J. Cronin, IVDei, JCL, 57, a priest of the Diocese of Winona Rochester (Minnesota) and former staffer for the United States Congress, died of complications post heart bypass surgery, on August 16, 2023. He was ordained a priest on June 13, 1995, at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Winona by Bishop John G. Vlazny. After parish assignments, and Canon Law studies at the Catholic U of America, he served three years as diocesan chancellor. Following two heart attacks, he began a medical leave to take time away and was again employed by the U.S. House of Representatives for 5 years. In the spring of 2011, he returned to active parish ministry and served once again as Chaplain at Winona State University Newman Center. Always willing to serve, the positions and people he led and helped is too numerous to list.



Pauline Mathieu passed away on Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on the 11th of April in her town of Harpswell, Maine. A cherished member of the Oblate Missionaries of Mary Immaculate, Pauline has been an Oblate for 22 years. Always at the forefront, she did not wait to be asked but would do whatever was needed to make a district meeting and a retreat as comfortable and prayerful as possible. She spent some time as a missionary in Africa and later in the Dominican Republic, retiring as a trusted office worker at Metropolitan Insurance Co. She is the most remarkable woman I have ever known. Her dedication, service and outgoing were beyond expectation. She served as team animator and assigned directress for many years. She was truly an inspiration when she was diagnosed with cancer and lived the Oblate spirituality to the fullest. She truly lived the five points which are: "Presence of God, never complain or criticize, be an element of peace and accepting all service."



Fellow Oblates Anita Plourde, Anita Therrien, Paulin Labbe and Yvonne Roux joined family at the final farewell. May she rest in peace - what a special blessing to pass during such a Holy Time.

Doreen Letitia Rowtie, a Missionary of the Kingship of Christ, passed away after a brief illness in Orlando, Florida, in the presence of family and friends on April 6, 2024. Doreen was born in 1954, in Georgetown, Guyana. She entered the Ursuline Convent in the late 70s, traveled to Africa, Haiti, Jamaica, and other countries working with the poor and needy. In 1991, she migrated to the United States, where she subsequently joined the Secular Institute of the Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ. Doreen was definitively professed in 2006. Doreen taught high school in New York but wanted to do more to help the sick. Getting her registered nurse degree, she became the head of the ICU Unit at Kings County Hospital, the largest city hospital in NYC, before retiring. She then worked part-time in the ICU Unit at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York until her passing on the 1st Saturday in April. Dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, and Blessed Armida Barelli, founder of SIM, Doreen served as a catechist for the Confirmation classes at her Brooklyn, New York Parish and offered many hours for vocation works. She had a servant's heart.



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.
- The USCSI collaborates with other groups to present consecrated secularity as a viable option in today's Church.

Executive Committee of the United States Conference of Secular Institutes:

President:	Susan Larkin, NY	susanlarkin125@gmail.com
Vice President:	Fr John O'Neill, NY	oneillj@felician.edu
Secretary/Editor:	Jessica Swedzinski, TX	jessica@schrsmary.org
Treasurer:	Deacon Paul Lang, GA	deacon.plang@gmail.com
Councilor:	Kathy Tierney, IN	desalessecular@gmail.com
Graphic Designer:	Claudette Cyr, CT	cfcyr@yahoo.com

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwrsN2t7T8xHfrdyGCHY59g>

Websites: www.secularinstitutes.org & www.cmis-int.org/en/

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/secular_institutes_usa/

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/secularinstitutes>



Contributions and photos for our *Fall Mountaineer* are due by **Sept 28, 2024.
Email to jessica@schrsmary.org or text 262-244-9329. Thanks in advance.**

CAN WE COUNT ON YOU? CAN WE COUNT ON YOU? CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

WHEN?	WHERE?	WHAT?	YOU ARE NEEDED!
Sept 20-22, 2024	Danville CA	USCSI Annual Meeting at San Damiano	
Oct 11, 2024	Steubenville OH	Religious Vocations Day at Franciscan U	
Nov 14-16, 2024	Long Beach CA	NCYC – National Catholic Youth Conference	
Dec 24 — Jan 6, 2026	Opening of Holy Year 2025 — Pilgrims of Hope		
Jan 1-5, 2025	Salt Lake City UT	SEEK 25 – FOCUS	
Jan 2-5, 2025	Washington, DC	SEEK Regional at Washington Hilton Hotel	
Sept 26-28, 2025	Marriottsville MD	USCSI Annual Meeting at Bon Secours	