



Joyful Apostolate

Spring 2015

YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Pope Francis has declared Nov. 30, 2014 – Feb. 2, 2016 to be a Year of Consecrated Life. Pope Francis stated, "I want to say one word to you and this word is joy. Wherever consecrated people are, there is always joy!"



In January, at the Archdiocesan Celebration of Consecrated Life, the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart was recognized for our 75th Jubilee. Above, some of our Sisters with Archbishop José Gomez. Below, we stood as we were recognized during the Liturgy.



Visit our website: www.sacredheartsisters.com
to view videos and more photos, and for the
"Upcoming Events" calendar.

FROM THE HEART OF SISTER IDA



Sister Ida recognized her call to consecrated religious life when she was 17 years old (left), and joyfully gave her life to our Lord, teaching and sharing with us up to the day she died. (Right: December 1999, two months before her death.)



God works in wonderful and mysterious ways. When did God call me? God calls each one of us *in person*. In my own vocation it was a promise of "I love you, please love Me." When the love of God dawned on me at the end of my retreat, I totally cut my ties to the world. I knew that this call and my answer to it are not temporary, it is forever. This is what consecration is all about. We realize what it really means that He loved us first with such a fantastic love and the only thing you can do is answer "Yes", truly giving yourself to God! This is a love relationship. There is no lukewarmness, no compromise, it is total, it is a decision to live totally for God.

When I said, "I am giving you my life, Lord," this was actually loving God back with His own Spirit. It was the sense of a definite "chosenness" by the will of the Holy Spirit, in the Father and the Son. Unless this special friendship was offered and given to me by the Holy Spirit, I would not be here. This is definitely a gift which comes from love.

God's presence is the most important reality of our religious life. Our consecration means being a bridge, a means of union between Jesus and His people. We are called to the mission of the Son - to help others to know God. This is what we teach - that personal tremendous love of God for each person. We are the living example of that value; we put our lives where our mouth is.

We are showing the world what it is like to love God with an undivided love. We make God's friendship real for others. Instead of anything being an obstacle or a block between ourselves and God, *everything* leads to Him...nothing and no one, not even the delightful creation of God, will be an obstacle between ourselves and God. In us they see people who really base our lives on this friendship and union with God and the value of eternal life.

God called me to be a religious woman who lives by faith, who loves God undividedly, and who gives her total self to God and to doing His will. He called me to this Community that is primarily a Community in love with God.

Sacred Heart Sisters'

Our love of Community is expressed in our relationship with the group of Sisters with whom we live, pray and work.



We incorporated a May Crowning into Sister Elizabeth's feastday prayer service at our retreat center convent chapel. Sister Elizabeth was honored to crown our Blessed Mother!

In December, Sister Mary, Superior General, (2nd from left) had Visitation with our Sisters in Taiwan. Each year, our Superior General or a Council Member visits each of our convents as a means for our support.



The large kitchen at our camp enables us to cook together during vacations. Many of us have favorite dishes that we like to make for each other!



We enjoy hikes and walks together, appreciating our Lord's creation.

We live together in a loving atmosphere in our local communities. We spend our holidays together, too!

A Sister described our Thanksgivings in Big Bear as:

"Cool nights- warm pies.

Tall trees- scattered pine cones.

Sitting by the fire- playing cards.

Breakfast in the kitchen- mugs of hot coffee.

Being together with Our Lord and each other.

We are one in Him!"

Community Life, Prayer Life



Prayer is woven throughout our day and life. Daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, annual 8-day silent retreat, days set aside for prayer, reading spiritual books and studying Scripture are all part of our prayer life.



You Are Invited!

**Celebration of the 75th Jubilee
of the founding of the
Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart**

November 7, 2015, 11:00 am
St. John Eudes Church in Chatsworth

Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated
by Archbishop José Gomez of Los Angeles

and Apostolic Life

We are sent to proclaim the Good News of Jesus!
“Our Society, as an Apostolic Religious Institute, is primarily involved in teaching the truths of our faith, and in making the Father and His love known.”

-Constitutions of our Society



Workshops for catechists (above) are part of our apostolate in every country. In Saint Louis' Paul VI Catechetical Institute, our Sisters also teach our 5-Step Illustrated Teaching Method to the grateful seminarians.



Sacramental preparation and retreat work are integral aspects of our apostolate.

For more photos of our Sisters proclaiming the Good News in various apostolic works, please visit our website.



Formation of our Sisters



Sister Jane (top left) and Sister Joanna (left) meet regularly with the temporary professed Sisters for classes. When they can't physically be together, they make use of technology. This past October, Sister Jane reflected on the Stations of the Cross with Sister Laura (on screen), Sister Hannah (top right) and Sister Micaela (bottom).

Walking and Praying for Life!

Sister Joanna, Sister Guadalupe and the temporary professed Sisters drove to San Francisco for the Walk for Life, West Coast. On the way, the Sisters prayed at several California Missions; below right, they are praying at Mission San Miguel.



In January, several Sisters joined the One Life LA Walk, while Sister Teresa joined a group from Saint Louis and 600,000 people for the March for Life in Washington, D.C.



What drew you to religious life?



As my high school guidance counselors and booklets and surveys made their suggestions for what to do with my life, a thought kept coming to my mind: "Teach love"...I had to ask where this thought came from. The answer that became clear is that it could only come from our Lord. He was the Guidance Counselor for my future. -Sister Virginia

One thing I love about my consecrated religious life is...



Regardless of what I am doing or of how "successful" it might appear, I am confident that I am doing our Lord's will. -Sister Michelle

All of my life belongs totally to God. Poverty is my favorite vow because I see it as the essence of my life. Absolutely all I have is gift: my senses, the persons I love, where I live, etc. Through the vow of poverty I recognize and acknowledge this, and entrust my entire life to the Giver who is God.

-Sister Elizabeth



For these and other Sisters' vocation stories, go to:
www.sacredheartsisters.com/vocation-stories.html

What helped you to remain faithful to consecrated life?



Years ago, I might have written something much more elaborate. But it has become very simple: God is patiently giving me the grace to notice His faithful love, to be joyfully overwhelmed by it and to accept it with gratitude. His merciful love is much more powerful than all my weaknesses. -Sister Agnes, 2014