



Archdiocese of Hartford

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

At the 82nd General Assembly of the Union of Superiors General in Rome, Pope Francis declared his intention to dedicate a year to the promotion of consecrated life throughout the universal Church. The Year for Consecrated Life begins on the Vigil of the First Sunday of Advent, November 29, 2014 and will conclude on February 2, 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord.

For all who have been called by the Lord to consecrated life, this is truly a threefold graced moment on a personal, congregational and ecclesial level. First, we are invited to “make a grateful remembrance of the recent past” through reflection upon how these last 50 years since the Second Vatican Council have witnessed a “journey of renewal” in our commitment to follow Christ through our religious consecration. Second, we are called to “embrace the future with hope” through continued trust in the presence of the Spirit at work in each and all of us. Third, we are challenged to “live the present with passion” and to witness to this through love, true friendship and communion. Taken together, the triple focus of this Year of Consecrated Life offers a unique opportunity to truly celebrate the myriad faces and facets of consecrated life in our Church and to strengthen our resolve to be in communion with each other in our efforts toward assuring our viability and vitality for the future.

Beginning with the Holy See, various agencies and organizations as well as individual congregations are mapping out plans for various activities and initiatives. Some of these may be inter-diocesan with activities taking place at various venues. To initiate the Year for Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese, **Solemn Vespers for the First Sunday of Advent** will be celebrated on **Saturday, November 29, at 4:00 p.m.** at **Mt. Sacred Heart Provincialate** located at 265 Benham Street, Hamden, CT, 06514. **Dinner** will follow Vespers. All religious communities from the Archdiocese of Hartford and the Diocese of Norwich are cordially invited to attend. Please RSVP by November 25 to the Office for Religious in Bloomfield either by phone or email to indicate the number who plan on participating. There is no cost for this event.

I look forward to sharing this celebration with you as we begin the Season of Advent and embark on the Year for Consecrated Life. Together, let us embrace the mandate give us by Francis to “wake up the world!”

In the Heart of Christ,

Sr. Mariette Moan, ascj