



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Pilgrims on the Way of Hope: A Resource for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

United States Conference
of Catholic Bishops

Jubilee of Consecrated Life: Resource Packet

October 8-9, 2025

INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

The Holy See has designated a number of Jubilee Days throughout 2025 to recognize and celebrate different groups of people and various ministries in the Church. The Jubilee of Consecrated Life will be held from Wednesday, October 8, to Thursday, October 9, 2025; however, these resources can be used for engaging and celebrating consecrated life at any time throughout the Jubilee Year.

Consecrated life is the permanent state of life in which a person deepens their baptismal consecration through profession of the three evangelical counsels: poverty, chastity, and obedience ([Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), 915-930). Within the Catholic Church, forms of consecrated life include religious life, the eremitical life, secular institutes, societies of apostolic life, and consecrated virgins and widows. Consecrated men and women, "like the

Apostles... have left everything behind in order to be with Christ and to put themselves, as he did, at the service of God and their brothers and sisters" (Pope John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation, [Vita Consecrata](#), no. 1).



Through a commitment to a form of life patterned on Christ, "the consecrated life thus becomes one of the tangible seals which the Trinity impresses upon history, so that people can sense with longing the attraction of divine beauty" ([Ibid.](#), no. 20).

Consecrated persons, in a "spirit of the beatitudes," visibly witness to the Church and the world the invisible reality of heaven (Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution [Lumen Gentium](#), no. 3). In lives engaged in active ministry or in hidden prayer, consecrated men and women perpetually proclaim the Gospel by virtue of their consecration.

This resource packet is for anyone who finds it useful. It can be used and/or adapted by dioceses, eparchies, religious institutes or societies of apostolic life, parishes, schools, campuses, apostolates, movements, organizations, or individuals to plan their celebration of the Jubilee Days for Consecrated Life. It might also serve as a catalyst or inspiration for the creation and development of local or year-round resources for those active in these associations.



For consecrated men or women who are making a Jubilee pilgrimage to Rome or to a designated special place (or particular Jubilee celebration) in a diocese or eparchy within the United States during 2025, this packet can also serve as an aid in the preparation or experience of that trip.

Additional resources for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life and other celebrations can be found online at the USCCB Jubilee Year web pages: available in English at [Jubilee 2025](#) and available in Spanish at [Jubileo 2025](#).

SPIRITUAL REFLECTION

Pope Francis, in his homily on the 28th World Day for Consecrated Life, urges consecrated men and women to let eager anticipation of heaven move their hearts. When the experience of daily life becomes monotonous or even discouraging, it is easy “to let ‘our spirit doze off’... to lock hope away in the dark corners of disappointment and resignation” (“[Homily of His Holiness Pope Francis on the 28th World Day for Consecrated Life on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord](#),” February 2, 2024). In response to the tendency to impassively wait for God’s activity, Pope Francis asks all consecrated persons to “be restless” ([Ibid.](#)). Not a restlessness born out of an uncertainty of God’s will, but a restlessness born from the knowledge that the fullest communion with God lies beyond the visible world. The psalmist reflects this steadfast and active restlessness in Psalm 27:

*“Come,” says my heart, “seek his face”;
Your face, Lord do I seek...
I believe I shall see the Lord’s goodness
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord, take courage;
be stouthearted, wait for the Lord!*

Psalm 27:8, 13-14

Prayer, work in the apostolate, and life in community visibly manifests this restlessness: “eschatological expectation becomes mission, so that the Kingdom may become ever more fully established here and now” ([Vita Consecrata](#), no. 27). By their vows consecrated men and women are themselves signs of “eschatological expectation” to the world, but this visible witness finds its foundation in the interior restlessness for heaven within the heart of a consecrated person ([Lumen Gentium](#), no. 46). Born and sustained by interior restlessness, the consecrated state of life “clearly shows all men both the unsurpassed breadth of the strength of Christ the King and the infinite power of the Holy Spirit marvelously working in the Church” ([Ibid.](#), no. 44).

In this Jubilee Year, ask in prayer for an increase of restless desire in anticipation of heaven. Find consolation in drawing close to the Eucharist, being reminded that consecrated persons are “called to contemplate and bear witness to the transfigured face of Christ... [and] to [live] a ‘transfigured’ existence” ([Vita Consecrata](#), no. 35). Amid encountering the world and its anxieties, ask for a renewed desire for full communion with God in heaven: tirelessly bringing the minds of others to God, drawing impetus from your own interior gaze of him.

SUGGESTIONS FOR PILGRIM PREPARATION

One major element of the Jubilee celebration for Catholics is making pilgrimage. For some, that may involve going to Rome, where international pilgrims traditionally visit the Holy Doors of the four great basilicas (Saint Peter, Saint Paul Outside the Walls, Saint Mary Major, and Saint John Lateran). For most others, though, local Jubilee pilgrimages can be made to diocesan or eparchial cathedrals, churches, and/or religious sites.



If headed to Rome for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life:

Should you or your diocese decide to travel to Rome, in particular for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life (October 8-9, 2025), the following may be helpful:

- You can develop a trip on your own or go through a licensed tour operator that specializes or has experience in religious travel. The latter option may cost extra, but it can save time; additionally, those operators may have existing connections with vendors and may be able to advise on travel concerns. PLEASE NOTE: The USCCB does not endorse nor identify any licensed tour operator as the official U.S. tour operator.
- The official Jubilee events for consecrated life include passage through Holy Doors and Mass with the Holy Father on Thursday, October 9. More information can be found here: <https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/pellegrinaggio/calendario-giubileo/GrandiEventi/Giubileo-della-Vita-Consacrata.html>. Pilgrims and groups may also consider taking part in additional activities, either planned on their own or events hosted by other apostolates/groups.
- Prepare for the trip with liturgies, retreats, devotional and service experiences, community building, catechesis, and fundraising, as needed. Take time for prayer, especially with the Blessed Sacrament, as well as practical travel planning (packing, supplies, water bottle, hat and comfortable shoes, etc.).
- Upon the return home, consider in advance ways to share the experience with others and put into practice the missionary lessons received during the Jubilee moments in Rome.

If coordinating a local pilgrimage within the United States:

It is highly recommended to make pilgrimage to one's own diocesan or eparchial cathedral or other church(es) or religious site(s) designated by the bishop or eparch. Pope Francis has invited every diocese and eparchy to designate their cathedrals or a popular Catholic shrine as special places of prayer for Holy Year pilgrims, offering opportunities for reconciliation, indulgences, and other events.

- Plan for a local pilgrimage which can take place at any time of year or can be done at the same time as the events for consecrated life in Rome (October 8-9, 2025). The timing, as well as the exact local destination, is at the discretion of the local organizer(s). Local motherhouses, convents, and sacred spaces of the many religious institutes can consider opening their chapels for pilgrims to visit and pray with the local community between October 8-12, 2025, or on significant congregational feast days throughout the jubilee year.
- Research the pilgrimage destination to ensure that your visit does not coincide with liturgical or local community events and is being done within the posted opening hours for the site. You may wish to contact someone in leadership at the location in advance, especially if you plan to bring a group.
- Before embarking on a local pilgrimage, consider taking time for prayer and community-building.
- After returning home (even if the trip was local), take time for prayer and theological reflection on the graces of God received during the pilgrimage experience. If you went as a group, continue to gather in the weeks and months following the trip to support one another and coordinate missionary actions.



SUGGESTIONS FOR CELEBRATING CONSECRATED LIFE LOCALLY

Suggestions for Parishes

- Use the weekend liturgies on October 11-12 to recognize all consecrated men and women: in the homily, general intercessions, with a special blessing, or by inviting them to serve in key liturgical roles. An example of a petition for the Prayer of the Faithful might include:

For consecrated men and women and those discerning the consecrated life in this diocese and around the world, that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit in their faithfulness to the vocation God has called them to.

- Have a reception or networking activity after weekday Masses on October 11-12 for local consecrated communities, as well as lay parishioners. Invite vocation teams to provide exhibits to showcase the charism, vows, and community life of the religious institutes serving in the diocese. During those gatherings, offer food and drink, and opportunities to meet-and-mingle.
- Livestream or replay video of key Jubilee events (i.e., Mass with the Holy Father) taking place in Rome from October 8-9, 2025, at the parish (noting the time difference between Rome and your local area). You may also consider coordinating programs at the parish during the livestream viewings such as liturgies, Eucharistic adoration, confessions, catechesis, service projects, small groups, or socials.

Suggestions for Dioceses and Eparchies

- Celebrate a liturgy or host a prayer service for the diocese's consecrated men and women at the diocesan/eparchial cathedral between October 8-9, 2025, concurrent with the Jubilee celebrations happening in Rome.
- Hold a diocesan/eparchial-wide Jubilee walking pilgrimage for consecrated life from the cathedral (or another site of your choosing) to religious convents, provincialates, houses of formation, motherhouses, sites, churches, and/or to a Catholic-led social services center or institution.
- Post the stories of the consecrated men and women on the diocesan or eparchial website, social media channels, and communications (magazine, newspaper, newsletter, etc.) prior to and/or during the Jubilee of Consecrated Life in October 2025. Consider highlighting the founders' day of religious institutes serving in the diocese or eparchy.
- Host a special diocesan/eparchial-wide dinner or reception for consecrated life, highlighting the charitable, devotional, or spiritual activities of each group and their members at some point during the Jubilee Year. Consider an award or recognition program for those who make key contributions to the life of the diocese/eparchy and/or society at large.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES & DOCUMENTS

- [Lumen Gentium](#), Second Vatican Council (1964): Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, outlining the roles the laity play in the life and mission of the Church. Available online.
- [Vita Consecrata](#), Pope John Paul II (1996): post-synodal apostolic exhortation on the consecrated life and its mission in the Church and in the world. Available online.
- [Provida Mater Ecclesia](#), Pope Pius XII (1947): Apostolic Constitution that recognized secular institutes as a new form of official consecration in the Catholic Church. Available online.
- [Primo Feliciter](#), Pope Pius XII (1948): a motu proprio issued on the first anniversary of Provida Mater Ecclesia. Available online.
- [Leadership Conference of Women Religious](#): an association of the leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in the United States. The conference has nearly 1270 members, who represent approximately 66 percent of the 35,000 women religious in the United States.
- [Conference of Major Superiors of Men](#): pontifically recognized national representative organization serving leaders of men's religious congregations, monastic communities, religious institutes, and societies of apostolic life in the United States.
- [Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious](#): national organization composed of over a hundred communities of women religious that promotes mutual support among its members.
- [United States Association of Consecrated Virgins](#): voluntary association of consecrated virgins that supports its members in living out their vocation.
- [United States Conference of Secular Institutes](#): conference composed of secular institutes that fosters communication and support among member institutes.
- [National Religious Vocation Conference \(NRVC\)](#): organization that provides formation and support to religious vocation directors for religious institutes and societies of apostolic life.
- [VISION Vocation Network](#) and [HORIZON Journal](#): NRVC professional resources promoting vocations to consecrated life.

KEY SAINTS

Holy Companions for Consecrated Men and Women

- **St. Mary Magdalene (1st century AD, feast day July 22)**: follower of Jesus and witness of the crucifixion, first proclaimer of the resurrection to the disciples, traditionally thought to have lived a hermetical life in a cave during the later years of her life.
- **St. Anna the Prophetess (1st century AD, feast day February 3)**: widow who remained in the Temple in fasting and prayer in the Gospel of Luke, encountered the Holy Family at the presentation of the child Jesus in the Temple, recognized Christ as the Messiah.
- **St. Gregory the Great (c. 540-604, feast day September 3)**: prefect of Rome who later became a Benedictine monk at his own home, elected pope after serving as the ambassador to the Emperor in Constantinople, remembered for his writings and ability to guide the Church throughout political struggles, and Doctor of the Church.
- **St. Charles de Foucauld (1858-1916)**: French aristocrat's son who entered a Trappist monastery, left France to establish a monastery in the desert that bore no vocations, killed at his hermitage by a band of marauders, the inspiration behind multiple religious congregations, associations, and spiritual institutes.



- **Bl. Armida Barelli (1882-1952)**: beatified by Pope Francis April 30th, 2022, she was an Italian woman who devoted her life at the instigation of the cardinals and the Pope to work for the ecclesial and secular educations of young Italian women. She served as president of the National Girls Youth of Catholic Action for more than three decades, helping young women to be formed in “a Eucharistic spirituality” and to recognize their equal “baptismal dignity” with men. She mobilized thousands of young women—without following in the footsteps of secular feminism which was then in the process of spreading—helping them to find their baptismal dignity and substantial freedom with recognition of equal dignity with men, all rooted in a Eucharistic spirituality. She was the founder of the Secular Institute of Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ.

PRAYER

Prayer for Those in Consecrated Life

*Most Holy Trinity,
blessed and the source of all blessedness,
bless your sons and daughters whom you have
called to praise the greatness of your love,
your merciful goodness and your beauty.*

*Father Most Holy,
sanctify the sons and daughters who have
consecrated themselves to you,
for the glory of your name.*

*Enfold them with your power, enabling them to
bear witness that you are the Origin of all things,*

*the one Source of love and freedom.
We thank you for the gift of the consecrated life,
which in faith seeks you and in its universal mission
invites all people to draw near to you.*

*Jesus our Saviour, Incarnate Word,
as you have entrusted your own way of life
to those whom you have called,
continue to draw to yourself men and women
who will be, for the people of our time,
dispensers of mercy, heralds of your return,
living signs of the Resurrection and of its treasures
of virginity, poverty and obedience.
May no tribulation separate them from you
and from your love!*

*Holy Spirit, Love poured into our hearts,
who grant grace and inspiration to our minds,
the perennial Source of life,
who bring to fulfilment the mission of Christ
by means of many charisms,
we pray to you for all consecrated persons.
Fill their hearts with the deep certainty
of having been chosen to love, to praise and to serve.
Enable them to savour your friendship,
fill them with your joy and consolation,
help them to overcome moments of difficulty
and to rise up again with trust after they have fallen;
make them mirrors of the divine beauty.
Give them the courage to face the challenges of our
time and the grace to bring to all mankind
the goodness and loving kindness
of our Saviour Jesus Christ (cf. Tit 3:4).*

(“Prayer to the Holy Trinity,” [Vita Consecrata](#) (1996),
Pope John Paul II)

