

Religious sisters join together to help local families in need

Food drive will mark World Day for Consecrated Life

Religious communities that are part of the Catholic Sisters Leadership Conference will set up food donation collection sites during Consecrated Life Week from Jan. 26-Feb. 2 at ministries and motherhouses in southwestern Pennsylvania.

The collaborative food drive is held in conjunction with World Day for Consecrated Life, which is observed annually by the Catholic Church Feb. 1-2. The is set aside to honor women and men called to religious life, and recognize the impact of their past, present and future service to those in need.

The sisters also will provide donations of reusable tote bags to the benefitting food distribution charities that include North Hills Community Ministries, St. Winifred's Food Pantry in Mount Lebanon, The Ladle in Ambridge, Our Lady's Pantry at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School in Moon Township, the Millvale Food Cupboard, Prince of Peace Parish on Pittsburgh's South Side and St. Paul Cathedral.

In addition to the food drive, during the month of February, sisters and their supporters will join together in prayer for the work of religious, as well as those contemplating religious life. Some will

also wear black and white ribbons in support of religious life. For information about the ribbon campaign, visit www.sistersofwpa.org.

Suggested nonperishable food donations include: canned vegetables, soup, beans, tuna, etc.; pasta (macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper), rice, baby food, formula, cereal, peanut butter, jelly/jam or sauces.

Donation sites and times are:

- Felician Sisters of North America, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Convent, 1500 Woodcrest Ave., Coraopolis, Pa. 15108; Jan. 26, 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Jan. 27-Feb. 1, 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Feb. 2, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Donations go to Our Lady's Pantry at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School; call 412-264-2890.

- School Sisters of St. Francis, Mount Assisi Convent, 934 Forest Ave., Pittsburgh (Bellevue), Pa. 15202; Jan. 26-Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Donations go to Prince of Peace Parish and St. Paul Cathedral food distribution programs; call Franciscan Sister Jeanne Marie Ulica at 412-761-6004 or e-mail jeanne_ulica@yahoo.com.

- Sisters of Divine Providence (use collection bins outside motherhouse), 9000 Babcock Blvd., Pittsburgh (McCandless Township), Pa.; Jan. 25-26 and Feb. 1-2. Providence Heights Alpha School also will be collecting Jan. 27-Feb. 1. Donations go to North Hills Community Outreach; e-mail Sis-

ter Betty Sundry at bsundry@yahoo.com.

- Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, Carlow University and Carlow Campus School, 3333 Fifth Ave., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213; parishes where Mercy sisters serve also will be collecting; through Jan. 31. Donations go to the Intersection in McKeesport; call 412-805-0993 or e-mail midana@gmail.com.

- Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities, Mount Alvernia, 146 Hawthorne Road, Pittsburgh (Millvale), Pa. 15209; Jan. 26-Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Donations go to the Millvale Food Cupboard; call 412-821-2200.

- Sisters of St. Francis of the Providence of God motherhouse (main entrance), 3603 McRoberts Road, Pittsburgh (Whitehall), Pa. 15234; Jan. 26-Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Donations go to St. Winifred's Food Pantry in Mount Lebanon; call 412-885-7232.

- Sisters of St. Joseph, 1020 State St., Baden, Pa. 15005; Feb. 2, 9 a.m.-noon. Donations go to The Ladle in Ambridge; call 724-869-6566.

The Catholic Sisters Leadership Council, formerly known as the Tri-Diocesan Sisters Leadership Conference, represents sisters from religious communities actively serving in western Pennsylvania as educators, nurses, social workers, caregivers, councilors, prayer partners and anyway they are called to help those in need.

Prayer for World Day for Consecrated Life

By Benedictine Sister Evelyn Dettling

Gracious God of life and love, we give you thanks for countless women and men

from ages past unto this very day who, enflamed with your love, consecrate their hearts to you while they pour out their lives in service for all your people, especially those most in need.

Continue, through the power of your Holy Spirit and the example of these

dynamic men and women, to draw others to dedicate themselves to you in consecrated life for the sake of the Gospel.

In a world at times cold and dark, may all those consecrated to you be ever living flames of love and light.

Amen.