

**Readings:** *Proverbs: Chapter 31: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11; 16-17: John 1:35-39*  
**Consecrated Life Day February 8, 2015**

Good morning! It is such a gift to look into the faces of the many sisters in consecrated life who are gathered in this community today along with Father Greg, our Chaplain, and our brothers and sisters who have joined with us in this Eucharistic Community to celebrate Consecrated Life Day.

Pope Francis has declared that this year should be a special year dedicated to Consecrated Life. He issues a call to all the Church to **“Wake up the World”**. Now that is a big charge! WAKE UP THE WORLD! (Really) We need fire in our hearts and energy and passion if we want to wake up the world.

Perhaps before we say “Wake up the world”, we might need to simply say “Wake Up” to ourselves and one another! Remember the words we heard in today’s Gospel! Jesus invited the disciples to “Come and See for themselves!” We too are invited today to take time to listen to the calls offered to us” to wake up” and respond to them as we are gifted and enabled by God’s Spirit.

Can we open our minds and hearts to play our role in this challenge? Just imagine what a powerful source of energy that would be if everyone here would take up the challenge to wake up the world. What an impact it could be to bring about transformation for our society, families, community and church!

Now you might be asking why we are celebrating Consecrated Life Day today. What is this celebration all about? Why should the Pope declare that there be a year dedicated to Consecrated Life?

This special year of Consecrated Life is not just some nice idea or a whim. Its roots are historically rooted in the context of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vatican Council, more specifically, on the 50th anniversary of the publication of the conciliar decree on the Renewal of Consecrated Life, ‘Perfectae Caritatis. (Perfect Charity)

Our first reading from Proverbs resonates with that document and poses a question for us. ”Who shall find a providence woman: she is far more precious than jewels: she offers to all her life of passionate caring, seeking to do justice all the days of her life.”

Where might we find such a woman today? We don’t need to go back in time to the canonized saints of yesterday or today. We can find countless women and men who personally embody these qualities. They are in a love relationship with the Holy. They are the men and women in consecrated life that we are celebrating today. Just look around this worship space. See the Providence women! See the women “who seek out the Word, listening with eager care. See those women who open their hands to the poor and reach out with their lives to the needy.”

While this year is dedicated to celebrate Consecrated Life, Pope Francis challenges all of us to live holy lives. “I invite all Christians to renew their personal encounter with Jesus Christ or at least to make the decision to let ourselves be found by Him, to seek Him every day without fail”.

Let us all take up the challenge to “Wake up the World”. (All: Wake up the world)

Let us remember the past with gratitude, live the present with true passion, and embrace the future with hope.

Are you able to feel the energy of Christ’s presence with us today? Dynamite waiting to be detonated!

Can we live our lives with passion and shout out “Here I am, a temple of your Holy Spirit”?

Will we embrace our unknown future with hope and trust in God’s presence and Providence to be with us?

These are the goals of Consecrated life today for religious and all people in the Church.

In gratitude we go forth and grow, remembering that each of us is a carrier of God’s love and providence!

Let the detonation of God’s powerful spirit begin! (Wake up the world)

Reflection by Anne Winschel, CDP