

Office of Consecrated Life



Director: Position currently vacant

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Purpose of the Office

The Office of Consecrated Life assists the bishop and the faithful of the Diocese in fostering an awareness of the gift of consecrated life in its various forms and encourages men and women to seek Christ and His will for their lives. This is accomplished through vocational events and initiatives in collaboration with the Office of Vocations and other pastoral curial offices. Bringing a religious presence to events helps our young people see living examples of those who have been called by Christ to live solely for Him and are joyful about it! Many men and women have been inspired to follow Christ in a religious vocation after attending events or speaking with a consecrated person.

Work of the Office

- Organizes vocation events such as Vocation Fairs, Youth Rallies, Adventure Camp, Steubenville and mission trips, and the Pilgrimage for Life.
- Serves consecrated men and women in many ways: Ensures that the consecrated persons employed by the Diocese of Crosse are compensated fairly by the diocesan institution; Maintains a census and mailing list of members of institutes of consecrated life, societies of apostolic life, and persons following other forms of consecrated life in the diocese. Is available for consultation on canonical matters concerning persons who follow the vocation of consecrated life and spiritual direction. Represents the Bishop to members of religious institutes, secular institutes, societies of apostolic life and persons following other forms of consecrated life and represents the members of consecrated life to the Bishop.
- Prepares and monitors an annual budget for the Office of Consecrated Life.
- Oversees the Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal.
- Provides information on the vocation of consecrated life in its different forms as well as information on Third Orders and programs of association or affiliation with religious institutes. Also gives counsel and assistance for those inquiring about the vocation of the consecrated life in its different forms.

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; be not frightened, neither be dismayed; for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 1:9

Office of Consecrated Life – Website Resources



What is the Purpose of the Consecrated Life webpage?

The purpose of the website is to provide information about how different consecrated persons live as well as their stories. The site gives reading resources and information about each form so as to see how Christ has called many different men and women to the various forms of consecrated life.

What are the Components?

There are tabs on the Website that will help you to understand better how Christ may call a person to a religious community, to the life of a hermit, as a dedicated consecrated virgin, or a society of apostolic life. There are tabs that also help one understand the stages of religious life and some resources on how to discern God's will.

For Whom is the Website Intended?

The Office of Consecrated Life Website, with a connection to the Office of Vocations website, is meant for any person seeking understanding of God's will for their lives and desire to know Him and know themselves in order to live more fully for Christ and His Church. This resource is available on the Diocesan website at www.dioceseoflacrosse.com. Click on Office and Ministries in the upper right hand corner of the main page followed by Office of Consecrated Life.

“Say not, I am too young!” Jeremiah 1:7

Vocation Fairs



What is the Purpose of a Vocation Fair?

A Vocation Fair is a gathering of religious at various schools or diocesan sites where our young people may greet, meet, and visit with men and women of all four vocations. This gives the young people an opportunity to ask questions of each of the priest, consecrated men and women, married couples, and single people in order to learn more completely about each vocation and to seek God's Will for their life.

What are the Components of a Vocation Fair?

During the school day, the students go to a designated room during their religion class period and visit the many priests, men and women religious, consecrated virgins, married couples, and single men or women. The students are given a "Scavenger Hunt" that assists them in learning more fully about each vocation by asking questions which range from "What is the most challenging part of your vocation?" to "How often do you pray and what do you eat? Who does the cooking in the convent or monastery?" The Office of Consecrated Life invites religious from within and outside of the Diocese in order to show the great variety of men and women religious, their way of life, and apostolate.

When are Vocation Fairs held?

Each year, we hold 2-5 Vocation Fairs, two in the fall semester and about two to three in the spring semester. Further, we rotate schools so that each student is able to participate in this event at least two times during their high school years.

Who May Attend?

All students who are currently in 9th-12th grade are required to attend.

I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return.

Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life. Amen.

-Homily by Pope Benedict XVI during his Inauguration as Pope, April 25, 2005

Pilgrimage for Life



What is the Purpose of the Pilgrimage for Life?

“Pilgrimages, a sign of the condition of the disciples of Christ in this world, have always held an important place in the life of Christians” (*The Shrine and the Pilgrimage*, United State Catholic Conference of Bishops). The purpose of the Pilgrimage for Life is to travel to our nations’ capital and prayerfully join with people gathered from throughout the United States to publicly express the dignity of all human life, especially in standing for the unborn to be protected from the evil of abortion.

What are the Components of the Pilgrimage for Life?

Pilgrimages have been happening since the Old Testament! Those making the journey have always walked to celebrate their Faith in places that indicate a memory of our Lord or in sites representing important moments in the history of the Church.

The Pilgrimage for Life involves a journey to Washington D.C. by bus to participate in the March for Life as well as the Vigil and Mass which precede the March. The central meeting point is the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. This is appropriate as “Shrines are like milestones that guide the journey of the children of God on earth. The Shrine reminds us that the Church is born out of the initiative of God; it recalls God’s initiative and makes us understand that such initiative with gratitude. It is a memorial of our origin in the Lord and a sign of the divine presence, and points to where we are going – Heaven! Visits to shrines fill us with hope, are an invitation to joy, and a call to conversion and renewal” (*The Shrine and the Pilgrimage*, USCCB).

We invite those attending to allow the pilgrimage to be more than just a fun experience where they will get to see many things in Washington D.C. This is a time to grow in faith and in a greater zeal to pray for the millions of babies whose lives have been taken by abortion, for the conversion of all those who support, administer, and advocate abortion and contraception in all its forms, and for the protection of all life, from conception to natural death. And finally, we desire to return home imbued with a greater knowledge of how each of us can be a light to bring about a “Culture of Life.”

When is the Pilgrimage for Life?

The Pilgrimage for Life is held in each year in January.

Who May Attend?

Anyone is welcome to attend who has reached the age of 13.

Open your mouth in behalf of the [mute], and for the rights of the destitute; Open your mouth,
decree what is just, defend the needy and the poor

-Proverbs 31:8–9