



The Francis Effect?

Those of us in the United States are still basking in the after-glow of Pope Francis' visit to the United States. During his time in the US, Pope Francis addressed a wide-range of topics: the environment, concern for migrants and refugees, the poor, and the family as the bedrock of society. His insights, compassion and mercy have touched people throughout the world and raised our consciousness on many societal issues.

How often have we heard that this Pontiff has renewed people's faith commitment, their zeal, their desire to serve God and others? To this end, some religious communities are now experiencing a growth in the number of midlife vocations. Some religious orders are welcoming women in their 40s and 50s who believe that God is calling them to religious life.

Why are mature-age women attracted to religious life? Certainly, they seek a deeper relationship with God. They long to experience community life with others who seek to love and serve God. The desire for a deepened living faith compels them. These women in their 40s and 50s may provide a "bridge generation" that could possibly make some religious communities a viable option for women in their 20s and 30s who are also discerning religious life.

How have mature-age women coming into community changed the formation process? Religious communities have become more conscious of treating women in formation not as the adolescents of the community, but as the mature women they are! The mature-age women's presence in community helps to nurture the growth of the younger women, also.



Mature-age women have a deep desire to use their well-developed life skills in service. Communities who are welcoming women in their 40s and 50s have provided opportunities for the women to blossom at a personal level and in turn, these women have contributed much to the communities as a whole.

In one Benedictine community, their experience is that mature-age women seem to adjust to community life more easily if they have been married and have children. Women who have raised children alone; worked full time to make ends meet; and have juggled jobs, children and household management have developed patterns of behavior rooted in sacrificing themselves for others. Women who have matured in their relationship with God recognize God's role in bringing them through painful life experiences. These women have become strong women of faith. Their potential contribution deserves a closer look.

~ excerpts from HORIZON Journal of the NRVC
How my community has welcomed midlife vocations by
Sr. Adrienne Kaufmann, OSB

Cabrini Health, Australia *Celebrating the Book Launch*



Sr. Sharon Casey, MSC (I.) welcomes Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC, Provincial, and Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC to the book launch at Cabrini Health.

Stella Maris Provincial Sr. Pietrina Raccuglia, MSC and Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC recently travelled to Australia and were on hand for the launch of the newest book on Cabrini Health, *From One Pebble, Many Pearls* written by Di Websdale-Morrissey.

In researching and preparing the manuscript for the book, the author Di Websdale-Morrissey conducted approximately 100 interviews. She says the project “quickly became a fascinating and involving one” that drew her into life at Cabrini.



Ms Websdale-Morrissey says she enjoyed the process, particularly, the many interviews she conducted. “The interviewees sat happily sharing their memories,” she said. “I would often get lost in the stories, laughing, crying, admiring. I hope that the book is overwhelmingly a celebration.”

~ submitted by Christine Elmer

The book’s author Di Websdale-Morrissey signs her books at the Cabrini launch, a most festive occasion.

NRVC update

Regional coordinators meet



Nineteen NRVC regional coordinators gathered this week in Chicago to share best practices and received updates on important developments within the organization. They also provided feedback to the NRVC board about the proposed plans for the reorganization of the member regions throughout the country.

All Are Welcome

You're invited to learn about the newest generation of Catholic sisters and why we need them now more than ever at three upcoming gatherings. Hear remarkable stories from these modern women who have answered the call, and learn how they perceive their mission.

These unique gatherings, hosted by the National Religious Vocations Conference (NRVC) during the Year of Consecrated Life and made possible due to the generosity of the GHR Foundation, will feature several young sisters, along with the authors of *New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity*.

A Q&A session and raffle will follow the main presentation. Refreshments will be served. This is an excellent chance to generate support for Catholic sisters now and in the future. Please plan on attending—and bring friends!

Upcoming schedule

Oct. 10, 2015, 1-4 pm, Mass to follow - Immaculata University in Immaculata, Pennsylvania

Jan. 23, 2016, 9 am-noon - Mount Saint Mary's University in Los Angeles, California

Featured speakers

New Generations of Catholic Sisters authors:

Sr. Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN.; Sr. Patricia Wittberg, S.C.; Dr. Mary Gautier
Questions? Call the NRVC offices at 773-363-5454. Learn more [here](#).

Today's Catholic Sisters

Who they are. Why we need them.

Learn more about the faith and work of these amazing women.

Sept. 12, 2015 9 am-noon
University of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio, TX

Sept. 20, 2015 1-4 pm
Dominican University, River Forest, IL

Oct. 10, 2015 1-4 pm Mass to follow
Immaculata University, Immaculata, PA

Jan. 23, 2016 9 am-noon
Mount Saint Mary's University, Los Angeles, CA

FEATURED SPEAKERS
New Generations of Catholic Sisters authors:
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Dr. Mary Gautier

Questions? 773-363-5454 NRVC.net

NRVC GHR

One Minute Meditation – The Where of Prayer

Place is important to prayer. You can pray anywhere, but pay attention to where it is that you are able to be most fully present to God. After all, prayer doesn't come to us, we come to prayer. In prayer, you offer your whole self. Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole person who prays. Open your heart in and to prayer. God is waiting there. You just need to show up.

~ Take Five for Faith

Prayer Requests

Burkino Faso

Former CMC missionary Brenda asks the prayers of the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrini community for the country of Burkina Faso. “They just recently went through a coup but it is still quite dicey. Please pray for reconciliation and peace.”

Thank you, Brenda CMC to Swaziland 1995

Clyde Lane

Cabrini College Professor Emerita Dr. M.L. Candi Corbin Sicoli requests prayers for Clyde Lane, the husband of a long-time friend of hers, who recently suffered two strokes and is recovering at home in Los Angeles. Candi is asking our prayers for his complete recovery.

Sr. Julia Toto, MSC

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Julie who continues to recover from a stroke. Pray that her recovery will continue to progress.

With Gratitude

In recent weeks we have been praying for the successful adoption of a baby for the daughter and son-in-law of Cabrini College alumna and trustee Dr. Anne Marie Borneman. Anne Marie writes, “Hannah and her parents are safely home and beginning their new lives together in Wayne, PA.”

“We are all truly grateful for your prayers, support and friendship. Liz and Mark felt your concern and warmth throughout the past weeks – through the challenging moments and the joyous ones...”



“Each of you will remain in our hearts and will always be an important part of Hannah’s life story.” With love and gratitude, Anne Marie

