



Further Considering Mid-Life Vocations

In last week's edition of The Update, we shared the news of the increase in mid-life vocations to religious life. With women and men living longer, entering a religious community in their 40s or 50s still allows for many fruitful years of ministry.

It was mentioned that one Benedictine community's experience was that mature-age women seem to adjust to community life more easily if they have been married and have children. God is not asking them to abandon their commitment as loving mothers and grandmothers. God is calling them to juggle two life-commitment calls. And, having had children, these women are good jugglers!

By contrast, [some communities' experience has been] that the mature age women who might have the hardest time adjusting to community life are the women who have always been single and who have lived alone for the greatest part of their adult lives. This, however, is not a sweeping generalization.

To enter a community in their 40s and 50s, a person must be in very good health when they enter. "We want to reasonably expect that, barring totally unforeseen circumstances, they will be able to contribute actively to the mission until at least age 75," said Benedictine Sister Adrienne Kaufman, the author of the HORIZON article.

All candidates must be screened carefully. Behavioral assessment, psychological assessment, a thorough health assessment and written references for all applicants are the standard protocols. With mature age women, Sr. Adrienne says that they are especially careful about four areas:

- Have they matured spiritually and psychologically, as well as chronologically?
- Have they had a history that indicates ability to negotiate life's challenges successfully?
- [If formerly married with a family,] what is their relationship with their children? Are their children healthy and able to live independent lives? Do they desire to stay in relationship with their children and grandchildren?
- What is the status of their parents? Are they apt to be called away to care for aged and disabled parents within a few years of entry?



For those considering a vocation to religious life in mid-life, the "24/7" demands of religious life are explained in great detail by congregations. The reality is that life in

community can be more demanding than a full time job. Many aspirants have little concept of the cooperative energy it takes to build a vibrant community of women whether out on mission or in a monastery. Some women are shocked to learn that religious communities are financially self-supporting.

Sr. Adrienne further explains that the women must be capable of taking on some type of leadership role in the future, in part due to the diminishing number in religious life.

Next week, we will continue to explore mid-life vocations and who are realistic candidates.

~ Sr. Adrienne Kaufmann, OSB, HORIZON, *How My Community has welcomed mid-life vocations?*

National Shrine of St. F.X. Cabrini, Chicago, IL *Shrine Chosen for 2015 "Know Your Chicago Tour"*

The National Shrine of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini was honored to have been chosen as one of the destinations for the 2015 Know Your Chicago tour series. Entitled "There is Nothing Like a Dame; Women Who Changed Chicago", the tour sold out in 48 hours.

Over two days, two hundred guests were enthralled by the Shrine architecture and were treated to stories of Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini and her impressive life. They left with a deeper understanding of how the first American Saint and the Patroness Saint of Immigrants was able to develop 67 missions around the world by the time she died at age 67.



In partnership with The University of Chicago, the Know Your Chicago Tours have sought to provide Chicagoans with insight into the forces and institutions that have shaped the city. This year they celebrate their 67th season.

~ submitted by Sr. Bridget Zanin, MSC

The Vatican *Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*

The Pontifical Council for Social Communications on Tuesday announced the theme for the **2016 World Communications Day**. It is *Communication and Mercy: A Fruitful Encounter*. The day is celebrated each year on the Sunday before Pentecost, which next year is on **May 8th**.



World Communications Day was established by Paul VI after the Second Vatican Council in order to draw attention to the "the vast and complex phenomenon of the modern means of social communication."

This year's theme was decided in order to coincide with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, the Holy Year called by Pope Francis to announce the Mercy of God.

~ submitted by Sr. Diane Olmstead, MSC

All Are Welcome This Saturday

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
Alumnae Hall on the Immaculata campus

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](#).

Sr. Grace Waters, MSC and Nancy Costello will be attending the symposium on behalf of the MSC Vocation Promotion Team.

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:
Sr. Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN.
Sr. Patricia Wittberg, S.C.
Dr. Mary Gautier

Questions? 773-363-5454 NRVC.net

Logos for NRVC, GHR, and Mount Saint Mary's University are visible at the bottom.

Prayer Requests

Bob

Sr. Christine Marie Baltas, MSC asks prayers for a friend named Bob who is discerning a change in his career path. He is a faith filled person who is most grateful for the prayers that will be offered for him.

Ian

Sr. Grace Waters, MSC asks prayers for a gentleman by the name of Ian, who asks for prayers because of his need for trust and faith during his daily struggles.

Sr. Janet Hockman, MM

Sr. Janet's ministry is with the people of Chuuk. She asks for our prayers.

Andy Litavec

Please pray for Cabrini College Professor Emeritus Andy Litavec who will undergo bypass surgery this afternoon. Pray that he will come through surgery well and that he will recuperate quickly.

Brenda Ryan

Please pray for Brenda, who has been undergoing chemo and radiation treatment for a year and who has experienced recurrent tumors in her lungs. Brenda asks our prayers for healing and peace.

Donald Shaffer

Donald has recently been diagnosed with leukemia and asks for our prayers.

Joey Sherman

Former CMC missionary Michelle Sherman asks our prayers for her brother, Joey Sherman. He has been having health issues for fifteen months - including colitis, intestinal parasites, and now, boils on his face and back. He is 17 years old and needs prayers for healing. He would really appreciate support from the Missionary Sisters and the Cabrinian community.

Sr. Julie Toto, MSC

Please continue your prayers for Sr. Julie who is at St. Cabrini Nursing Home in Dobbs Ferry, NY as she recovers from a stroke. She is making good progress and is grateful for all our prayers.



With Gratitude

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for all your prayers especially when I had my thyroid surgery. I am well now and excited to join you all for coming assembly.

~ Cabrini Lay Missionary (CLM) Vicky Lucio