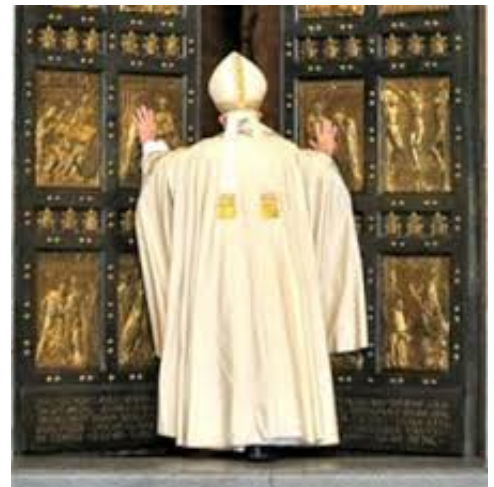




The Jubilee Year of Mercy Embraced by Religious Communities

Since Pope Francis declared the Jubilee Year of Mercy which opened on December 8, 2015, around the world religious communities have been making this year truly extraordinary. Here are just a few of the ways men and women in consecrated life have been expressing the merciful dimension of God during this year:

- Religious communities have been using their websites and social media to communicate and convey the Christian concept of mercy. Facebook pages of religious congregations have carried inspirational messages and have suggested concrete actions to express and offer mercy.
- Religious congregations are hosting retreats, special days of prayer and reflections, and book discussions on the theme of mercy.
- Educational institutions sponsored by religious communities are discussing mercy, praying about it in classrooms and in chapels, and spearheading special works of mercy service projects.
- Many religious order priests have become “missionaries of mercy,” priests specially appointed by Pope Francis to be responsible for preaching, teaching and practicing mercy.
- Religious communities have ritually opened “holy doors of mercy” in their own chapels, shrines and holy places.



Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics – ordained, religious and lay – to make a pilgrimage to a designated church or shrine to visit a “holy door of mercy” to better experience God’s mercy through the symbolism of crossing a threshold. There is still time - the Jubilee Year of Mercy will conclude on November 20, 2016. Holy Doors of Mercy have been designated at St. Frances X. Cabrini Shrine in New York City, Mother Cabrini Shrine in Golden, CO, and the National Shrine of St. Frances X. Cabrini in Chicago.

~ excerpts from VISION Vocation Guide

From the Province Vocation Promotion Team...

I'm over 40. Can I still join religious life?

This is the first instalment of an article that appears in the VISION Vocation Guide
by Sr. Adrienne Kaufmann, OSB and Br. Ronald Hingle, SC.

Not all religious communities accept candidates over the age of 40 (the MSCs welcome women on an individual basis, but generally will invite women ages 18 – 45 to apply for candidacy). In this series of articles we will explore the questions and answers that mature candidates often have.

If I have lived alone for many years, how will I know if I can live community life?

Sr. Adrienne: The call to religious life is accompanied by a desire for deeper intimacy with God, plus the desire to love out that call with others. Knowing oneself is a must. Are you flexible, or is your daily routine pretty rigid? Can you forgive and ask forgiveness? Are you comfortable in groups? Are you a team player who can both lead and follow? If so, spend time with the community. Eat, pray and play with them. Get to know the members. The application process helps identify indications of compatibility, but really only time spent within the community can determine whether it is for you. The Church wisely requires several years as a member of a community before making perpetual profession, also called final vows. This gives a new member and the community time to try on life together and to see if it fits.

Br. Ronnie: Having an affinity for a community's ministry, spirituality or charism is not enough to make you a good match for being a vowed member of the group. The adjustment from living on one's own to living in a religious community is one of the greatest challenges to an over-40 vocation. Several areas have proven to be sticking points and need to be carefully explored:

1. **ACCOUNTABILITY:** How willing are you to be accountable to a community for everything from spending money to managing your personal schedule, including your job choice? Sometimes, something as simple as letting people know where you are going and when you will return can seem stifling.
 2. **SHARING:** How willing are you to share space, time and material resources with the community? Transitioning from "my place," "my car," and "my TV," to "our community," "our community vehicle," and "our community TV," can be difficult.
 3. **OBEDIENCE:** How willing are you to seek permissions from the necessary authority? While most religious institutes do not treat their members as children, the requirement to check ahead of time with a person in authority about major purchases, weekend and vacation plans, and even ministerial responsibilities can seem somewhat adolescent, and receiving a "no" is even more jarring. But this is an integral part of religious life.
 4. **MINISTRY:** How willing are you to be available for the community's mission? This can involve not only moving from one location to another to live or perform ministry, but also being personally stretched, possibly by being asked to pursue additional education or learn new skills.
 5. **COMMUNAL GOOD:** How generous are you? How willing are you to put aside your personal agenda and expectations to sacrifice for the greater communal good or for the sake of the mission?
- Next week, we will explore further commonly asked questions.**

Knowing oneself is a must. Are you flexible or is your daily routine pretty rigid? Are you a team player who can both lead and follow? If so, spend time with the community. Eat, pray and play with them.

Senior Class Rings – The Tradition Continues!

Cabrini High School senior students proudly show their new senior class rings.

Congratulations, young ladies!

~ submitted by Ardley Hanemann



Sister Simone Campbell is coming to Pennsylvania, and you are invited! Next week, she is traveling to Philadelphia and Harrisburg to talk about Pope Francis Voters and the 2016 election, and how we can all work together to “Mend the Gaps.”

Join Sister Simone on September 28 in Philadelphia for a lecture titled “Mending the Gaps: How Disaffected Catholics and Pope Francis Voters are Making a Difference this Election Cycle.”



When: Wednesday, September 28 at 6:30 pm

Where: Cardinal John P. Foley Campus Center, Maguire Campus - St. Joseph University, 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131 [View a campus map.](#)

Please join the
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart
in celebrating the
Jubilee of 60 Years of Religious Life
of Sister Benigna Morais, MSC

Friday, October 7, 2016

Mass at 1:30pm
Saint Anthony Hospital Chapel
2875 West 19th Street
Chicago, IL 60623



Reception immediately following the Mass
RN Conference Room

No Personal Gifts Please

Prayer Requests

Nancy LaMattina Costello

Prayers are requested by Nancy Gorevin Costello of the Province Communications Office for her sister-in-law, Nancy LaMattina Costello, who will undergo shoulder surgery tomorrow. Please pray that her surgery will go well and her recovery will be swift and uneventful.

Art McMahon

Cabrini University staff members Frances Conwell and Diane Scutti request prayers for a colleague, Art McMahon, from Drexel University. He has contracted a serious lung infection that has his doctors perplexed. Please pray that his doctors will find the appropriate medications to resolve his infection. Mr. McMahon appreciates all the prayers that are prayed on his behalf.



With Grateful Hearts

Elizabeth Bergin

Last week, we asked prayers for Elizabeth Bergin, the daughter of Cabrini University staff member Carmel-Jo Madonna.

Elizabeth was undergoing medical tests. Carmel-Jo shares, “The first tests came back negative, which is awesome news. Thank you so much for your support through all of this. Prayers are so powerful. Please keep them coming. Forever grateful, Carmel-Jo.” Carmel and Elizabeth are still awaiting further test results so your on-going prayers are requested.

Kathleen Gorevin

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered in celebration of Kathleen “Kay” Gorevin, aunt of Nancy Gorevin Costello, who observed her 104th birthday on September 18th. We give thanks for her long life, her sense of humor, her spunk, and her good health.

Infant Samantha Josephine Sharpe

Cabrini High School alumna and trustee Florence Wingerter updates us on her grand niece,

“Great News!!! Many thanks for the prayers for baby Samantha, and her parents Meredith and Matt. Samantha went home from the hospital and is doing well. The doctors are very pleased with our beautiful little angel’s progress; her pediatrician and cardiologist will continue to monitor her and chart her progress.”



In Loving Memory

Mitch Kline

The Cabrinian Community join the Cabrini University Community in mourning the loss of Mitch Kline, Cabrini softball coach, who passed away on Thursday, September 15th 2016. Please keep Mitch and the Kline Family in your prayers at this sad time.

Vicki Moore Porretta

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Vicki Moore Porretta (Villa Cabrini Academy Class of 1962), who passed away on September 15. May she rest in God's eternal peace.

Crystal Dawn Marie Kathleen Sutherland

Please unite in prayer for Crystal who passed away on September 15th. She is the daughter of Brillante "Sparkle" Murphy (Villa Cabrini Academy Class of 1967).

One Minute Meditation

Bedazzle the Mundane

To us, everyday life might seem mundane, but not to God.

"It is possible that God says every morning, 'Do it again' to the sun; and every evening, 'Do it again' to the moon," G.K. Chesterton wrote. "It may not be an automatic necessity that makes all daisies alike; it may be that God makes every daisy separately, but he has never gotten tired of making them."

Perhaps to God, all things are new – beautiful creations set to dazzle the world. Try to enter each day in the same mindset, ready for goodness and steeped in grace.

~ Take Five for Faith