

POPE FRANCIS TO ALL CONSECRATED PEOPLE RE: YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

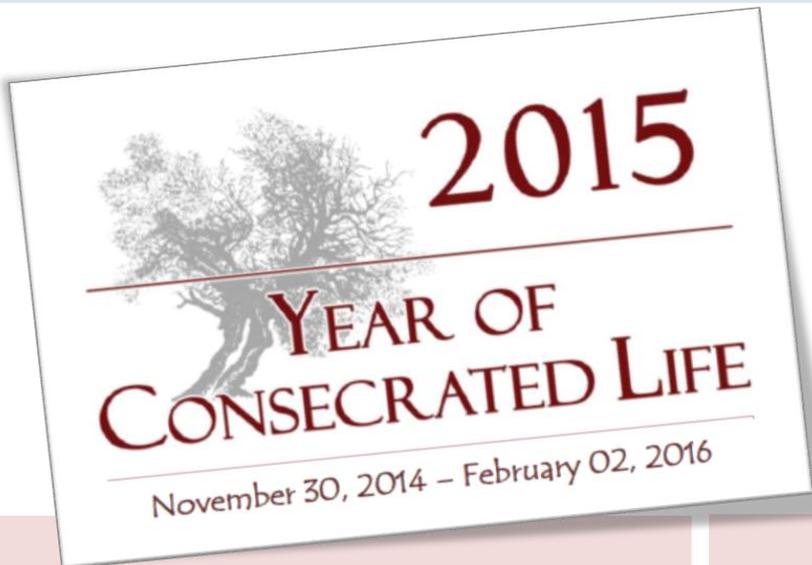
“I am counting on you “TO WAKE UP THE WORLD:”

Be prophets who witness to how Jesus lived on this earth... a religious must never abandon prophecy.



Come out of yourselves and go forth to the existential peripheries. A whole world awaits us: those who have lost all hope, families in difficulty, abandoned children, young people without a future, the elderly, sick and abandoned, those who are rich in the world's goods but impoverished within, those looking for a purpose in life, thirsting for the divine... I ask you to work concretely in welcoming refugees, drawing near to the poor, and finding creative ways to catechize, to proclaim the Gospel and to teach others how to pray.” [Click Here.](#)

“REJOICE: Letter to Consecrated men and women” [Click Here.](#)



[HYMN Click Here](#)

“Wake the World with Dawning Joy”

The Year of Consecrated Life began on the First Sunday of Advent and will end on Feb 02, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated life. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis*, a Decree on Religious Life, and *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Church. Its purpose, as stated by the Vatican is to “make a grateful remembrance of the recent past” while embracing “the future with hope.”

The Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) has posted on its Website a new section entitled "[Year of Consecrated Life](#)". In the new section of the CRC Website there will be news, videos, a bibliography, and reports on religious life. The video message of the Executive Director of the CRC, Yvon Pomerleau, O.P., is available, as well as the [video message of Sister Rita Larivée](#), S.S.A., President of the CRC.

“Imagine being transformed into an appropriately aging, slowing-down, declining-in-numbers-and-in-strength community of wise-ones, grandfathers/mothers, nurturers, lovers, risk takers, reconcilers! What do we have to lose? What do others have to gain? What are we for, for God's sake? There is no greater commitment or meaning, no greater love, than to lay down our lives for our friends: depressed, homeless, imprisoned, poor, sick, victimized. We need not be young and foolish, aging hippies or figures of fun. We have the capacity to be transformed by age and grace, into an ever more faithful image of God: more merciful, trusting, trustworthy, loyal and understanding; more abiding, supportive and forgiving; more missionary.” *Anthony Gittins, CSSp*

Anthony Gittins was the keynote speaker at the 2014 CRC General Assembly. Additional articles may be found in the CRC Bulletin.

See: [Volume 11, Issue 3 - Fall 2014](#)