

Becoming Neighbours is blessed indeed!



In a spirit of praise and thanksgiving
we express gratitude to God
for the life and ministry
of our companions and prayer partners
who are celebrating anniversaries
of Religious Profession.

75 Years

BERNICE ANSTETT, SOS prayer partner
with Silvia Toscano

MARY IRENE RAJCA, CSSF prayer partner
with Anton Saba

70 Years

ANNE MARIE CAREY, CSJ prayer partner
with Emma Nasawali

RITA MARIE MCLEAN, CSJ prayer partner
with Alice Rwisereka

MARY VAN HEE, IBVM prayer partner with
Beatrice Bocavergró

65 years

FRANCES COFFEY, SOS prayer partner with
Catherine Katona-Bitifil

60 Years

YVONNE HUTCHINSON, CND prayer
partner with Betty Mutoni

GWEN LEGAULT, OLM companion with Joy
Sweet and family, Aleida Patricia Lopez
Rodreiguez, and with the Bravo family

THERESA MARTIN, CSJ prayer partner with
Emmanuel Kirabo

FRANCIS MCCREA, FSC prayer partner with
John Umane

JOAN MISSIAEN, OLM prayer partner with
Paluku (Eric)

ARTHUR WHITE, SJ prayer partner with
Myriam Glemol-Diesen

NICHOLAS ZIMROZ, FSC prayer partner
with Akudo Okereke

50 Years

PATRICIA FLYNN, SOS prayer partner with
Maria Mayerova

ADUA ZAMPESE, SOS companion with
Christiane Momgu, Nora Mboga and family, and
Soline Kuderhwa and family; prayer partner with
Mariam Umane

Yes, it is amazing and a blessing!
1190 years of collective ministry and service to God's people.

21ST WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE (POPE FRANCIS)



“The Lord has called us to be leaven here and now, with the challenges we face. Not on the defensive or motivated by fear, but with our hands on the plough, helping the wheat to grow, even though it has frequently been sown among weeds”. Pope Francis continued to say that the calling of consecrated women and men is to put Christ “in the midst of people,” not acting as some sort of religious activist, but as “men and women who are constantly forgiven, men and women anointed in baptism and sent to share that anointing and the consolation of God with everyone.” Addressing the potential doubts and fears people may have,

Francis said “all are aware of the multicultural transformation we are experiencing; no one doubts this.” But “it is all the more important for consecrated men and women to be one with Jesus, in their lives and in the midst of these great changes. Our mission - in accordance with each particular charism - reminds us that we are called to be a leaven in this dough,” he said. “Putting Jesus in the midst of his people means having a contemplative heart, one capable of discerning how God is walking through the streets of our cities, our towns and our neighborhoods. “Putting Jesus in the midst of his people,” he continued, “means taking up and carrying the crosses of our brothers and sisters. It means wanting to touch the wounds of Jesus in the wounds of a world in pain, which longs and cries out for healing.” The words of Simeon and Anna were not full of self-absorption or an analysis of their personal situations. Instead, their “song” was “born of hope, the hope that sustained them in their old age. That hope was rewarded when they encountered Jesus.” Just as Mary placed Christ before Simeon and Anna to hold and to see, consecrated women and men are called to bring Christ to the people and areas they serve. Sometimes, Pope Francis said, we can fall prey to a temptation of “survival,” a mentality that can take root within people and within communities which turns them into “reactionaries, fearful, slowly and silently shutting ourselves up in our houses and in our own preconceived notions.” It makes us look back, “to the glory days - days that are past,” instead of working to rekindle the dreams and creativity present in our founders. A “survival mentality robs our charisms of power” by trying to make them more safe and more palatable to the modern world, he explained. “[The] temptation of survival makes us forget grace” by turning us “into professionals of the sacred but not fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters of that hope to which we are called to bear prophetic witness. The “hymn of hope” sung by Simeon and Anna is something we have inherited, we are “part of this process,” Francis said. In the founders of the different orders, “In their faces, in their lives, in their daily sacrifice we were able to see how this praise was embodied,” he explained. “We are heirs to those who have gone before us and had the courage to dream. Like them, we too want to sing, ‘God does not deceive; hope in him does not disappoint.’ God comes to meet his people.”

Friends of Becoming Neighbours Celebrating Religious Profession

65 years

JUDY KIDD, IBVM with her supportive presence for refugees and immigrants.

60 Years

HELEN CAMERON, IBVM with her supportive presence for refugees and immigrants.

GEORGE EDWARDS, FSC with his supportive presence for refugees and immigrants.

MARY LOU HARRIS, CSJ supportive presence for refugees and immigrants.