

# THE NEW WINE

bringing Our Lord's personal love to people, *one person at a time*

## PREPARING THE WAY

# ~ Year for Consecrated Life ~

Many of you may not want to think about the wintertime yet but we are very excited for what's coming! Beginning on November 21, 2014 the Church will dedicate the whole year for Consecrated Life. It will also mark the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Perfectae Caritatis* (The Renewal of Consecrated Life) of the Second Vatican Council.

[http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist\\_councils/ii\\_vatican\\_council/documents/vat-ii\\_decree\\_19651028\\_perfectae-caritatis\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_decree_19651028_perfectae-caritatis_en.html)

In this issue of our newsletter, we want to focus in on the gift of the consecrated life. Our beloved Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says this:

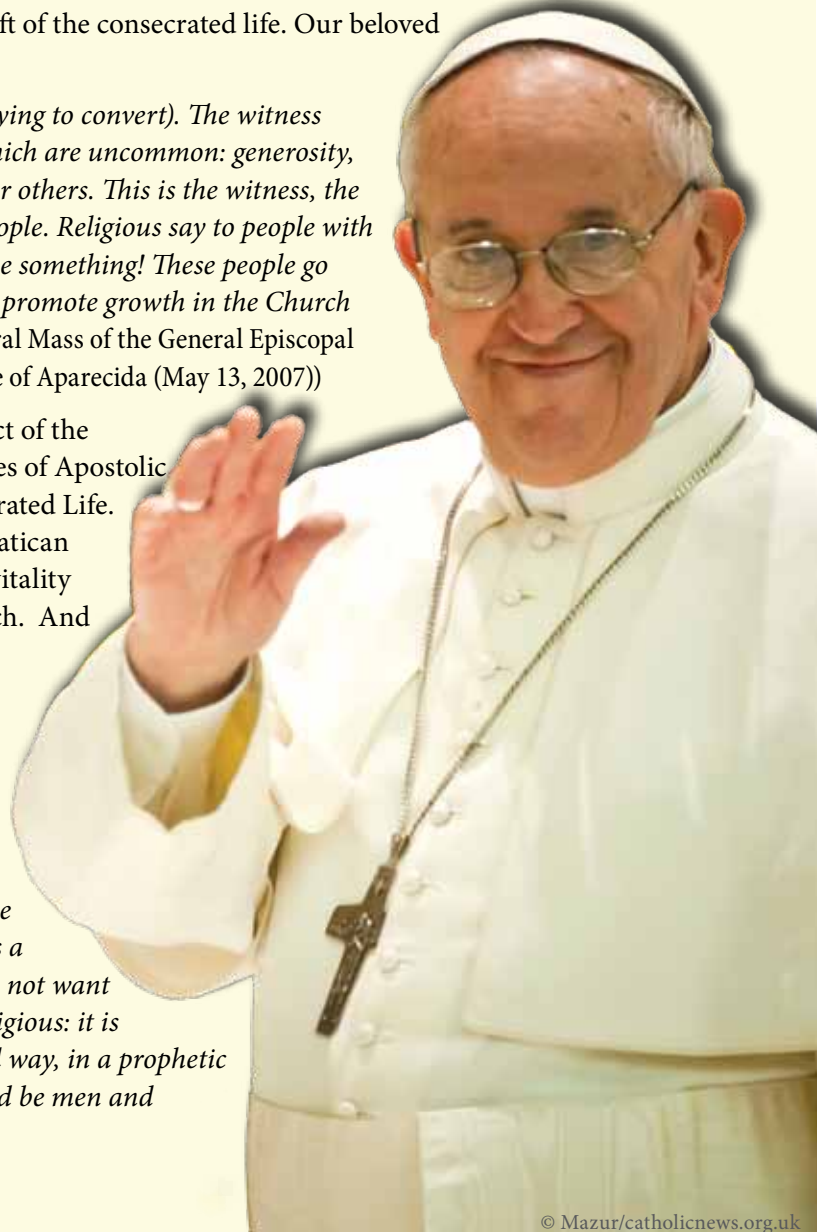
*The Church grows through witness, not by proselytism (trying to convert). The witness that can really attract is that associated with attitudes which are uncommon: generosity, detachment, sacrifice, self-forgetfulness in order to care for others. This is the witness, the "martyrdom" of religious life. It "sounds an alarm" for people. Religious say to people with their life: "What's happening?" These people are telling me something! These people go beyond a mundane horizon. "Thus, religious life ought to promote growth in the Church by way of attraction." (Benedict XVI, Homily at the inaugural Mass of the General Episcopal Conference of Latin America and the Caribbean at the Shrine of Aparecida (May 13, 2007))*

Pope Francis, along with Cardinal Joao Brax de Aviz, prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, announced the three objectives of the Year for Consecrated Life. **First**, it is to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council. **Second**, to embrace the future with hope for the vitality and irremovable part the Consecrated Life has in the Church. And **third**, it is to bear witness to the beauty of their lives.

Pope Francis was very exuberant when he spoke to the Superiors at a meeting held last November,

*The Church, therefore, must be attractive. **Wake up the world!** Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! It is possible to live differently in this world. We are speaking of an eschatological outlook, of the values of the Kingdom incarnated here, on this earth. It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord. No, I do not want to say "radical." Evangelical radicalness is not only for religious: it is demanded of all. But religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way. It is this witness that I expect of you. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up.*

(quote found on news.va 03-01-2014.) cont'd...



## PREPARING THE WAY *cont'd*:

Pope Francis was asked by a General Superior: "What, therefore, is the priority of consecrated life?" The Pope answered:

*Prophecy of the Kingdom, which is a non-negotiable. The emphasis should fall on being prophets, and not in playing at being them. Naturally the devil proposes his temptations to us; one of them is: just appear to be prophets. But it is not possible simply to play at these things. I myself have seen very sad things in this regard. No: religious are men and women who light the way to the future. (quote translated and published by La Civiltà Cattolica, Italy.)*

As he left the General Superiors Pope Francis stated:

*I thank you, I thank you for this act of faith that you have made in this meeting. Thank you for what you do, for your spirit of faith and your pursuit of service. Thank you for your witness, for the martyrs that you continue to give to the Church, as well for the humiliations to which you must submit: this is the way of the Cross. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. (quote translated and published by La Civiltà Cattolica, Italy.)*

We in turn thank our Heavenly Father for the many men and women who have selflessly accepted His call to serve Him in the vocation of the consecrated life. May the Lord continue to **fill his 'prophets' with courage to witness and cry out to the world to wake them up** to the greatness of God's Kingdom here on earth and to come in heaven. May all those in consecrated life reflect the depth of God's love for each one of us.



# NOW IT IS NO LONGER I

*By Sr. Melinda Schenher*

For a long time, I've been the kind of person who looks at the 'green grass on the other side of the fence'. I was never satisfied with where I was or what I was doing. If I was working in ministry, I wanted to get a regular, higher-paying job. If I was working in a secular job, I wanted to do ministry. If I was in Calgary, I wanted to be in Edmonton, if I was in Edmonton, all I could think about was to be somewhere else. Can you hear the kind of person I was? I was unsatisfied, unfulfilled, and I always had my eye on the next thing to come.

A grace moment came during my annual summer retreat a couple years ago. I was professed for two years; in the community for a total of four years. One day, as I was putting on my rosary ring, which I wear on my left hand ring-finger, my heart said, "Thank you, Lord, for my vocation." I paused. I realized that thought had never crossed my mind before. "Thank you, Lord, for my vocation." A swell of joy rose up in my heart as I considered what it meant to be satisfied with being completely His.

Deep gratitude replaced all those years of 'wanting more'. I can see clearly that I am exactly where I am supposed to be, and I am so thankful! Responding to His call with my 'yes' has brought great joy, lasting peace, and an overwhelming sense of satisfaction.

*Now, it is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me (Gal 2:20).*



By Chantal Bisson

As parents we raise our children as gifts from God. They are given to us as a loan to bring them up as good children of God. When the time comes for them to choose a career and a vocation, as parents, we can only act as a guide and inspiration. We have to let go: they choose a direction and then live with the consequences. We are there to pray and support them.

All four of my children did three years of high school in a boarding school, 550 km away from home, for a better education in French and religion. It was not easy the first time to let go, but with confidence, prayer and communication, it got to be easier and easier to see them go off to boarding school. After high school it was on to university or trade school in Saskatoon, only 200 km from home. There again we did not see them every weekend as they had their studies and activities. By then I figured they were old enough to make their own decisions and live with the consequences, good or bad.

When Sr. Monique left home for Ottawa after 3 years of university, for a 3 month Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO) project, we thought she would be back in the fall to pursue her classes at university. But from CCO she went on to National Evangelization Teams for a year, coming home once or twice. We cherished those short visits. We

did not think of these projects as futile because there was no income. I saw that in these 15 months of volunteering for the Church, Sr. Monique grew in her spiritual and prayer life.



When Sr. Monique decided to become a religious sister, I was a bit surprised and yet I knew it would be different with her, compared to her siblings who had chosen marriage. "To each their own" and "let the Holy Spirit guide them in their choice" is what I told myself. The first few years she lived in Ottawa, I worried about her: "how can she make a living?" "She is so far away and without anybody we know."

Religious life is important to me. At age 19 I entered the novitiate in St. Hyacinthe, QC. My parents let me finish my grade 12 before driving me to the convent. (I had asked in grade 11 to leave.) They had accepted my choice. It is not to say that they were disappointed when I returned home 6 months later.

It was a different letting go of Sr. Monique compared to the other

three children. With the others being married and now with children I know they are not alone. With Sr. Monique, until I went to Ottawa in 2006 and saw for myself, I thought of her as being alone in a big city far, far away from home. But now I know she has another family who love her and work with her. It is true that I see and hear from her less often and I do not always know what is going on in her life, but the same can be said of my other children and their families.

To all parents who are reading this, though it may not be easy to hear, we have to let go of our children, be it religious or married life. As parents letting go means we still love them but we let them live their life as they see fit. We are always there to pray and support them, but only in the background.

We've done our best to raise our children as gifts from God because they are only on loan from God. With a good up-bringing they should be able to live their lives in a good manner. We, parents, are there for prayerful support and guidance. That is what we did, Albert and I. The lines of communication were and are still always open. And every day we pray for our children and grandchildren. We are always happy to see or hear from them. May God bless them all and the Servants of the Cross!

## Support Your Sisters

- I would like to support the sisters, Servants of the Cross, in their mission of evangelization.  
I have indicated below the option of my support.

### Personal Information (please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

## Support Options

### One Time Donation(s)

#### Donation by Cheque(s)

Payable to the Servants of the Cross

Cheque in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Post-dated cheque(s) in the amount(s) of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ is/are enclosed.

Donation by Credit Card

Visa  MC Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

### Monthly Donations through Bank

\$25  \$50  \$100  Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I have attached a VOID cheque.

I may revoke my authorization at any time, subject to providing notice of 30 days. I have certain recourse rights if any debit does not comply with this agreement. For example, I have the right to receive reimbursement for any debit that is not authorized or is not consistent with this Pre-Authorized Deposit agreement. To obtain more information on my recourse rights I may contact my financial institution or visit [www.cdnpay.ca](http://www.cdnpay.ca).

### Monthly Donation by Credit Card

\$25  \$50  \$100  Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Visa  MC

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Prayer Request

*We invite you to send your special intentions  
and we will join you in prayer.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### \*Please Complete:

I hereby authorize the Servants of the Cross to arrange automatic withdrawals from my chequing account or credit card,

on the \_\_\_\_\_ (1st or 15th) day of each month

for payment of my pledge. I understand that I may cancel this authorization at any time with advance written notice.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generous gift!** We will send your tax receipt in the new year. BN 83634 8813 RR0001



# Consecrated Life in Action



1. You are Loved Retreatants with Fr. Scott McCaig, CC | 2. St. Timothy's Jesus Club Ben Xavier in the Prodigal Son Parable | 3. Faith in the Fire Retreat, Detroit | 4. Women of Bethany, Ottawa: Sr. Anna presented the Joy of the Gospel and Sr. Monique served breakfast | 5. Our brother, Bishop Christian Riesbeck, CC (ordained Mar 19, 2014) | 6. St. Therese Institute Theology of the Body Conference attended by Sr. Monique and Penelope | 7. In the Footsteps of Jesus Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Carlos Martins, CC (pictured with our guides and the pilgrims) | 8. Catholic Chaplaincy at York (CCY) : Gathered outside for the beginning of the Easter Vigil Mass | 9. Enjoyed a meal with the CCY Staff after day of ministry

## *At the Well Ministry*



Thank you for your financial response to our initial message in our last newsletter. It's good to hear that many of you are supportive of 'At the Well' ministry. We will keep you posted as we continue to seek God's plan for this great endeavor. We praise God for your collaboration in building up His Kingdom.

## *Calling the Called*

*I will trust and I will not be afraid  
(Is 12:2)*



*Serving Christ  
and His  
Holy Cross  
in our  
mission of  
Evangelization*

*To schedule a Come and See Retreat  
Contact Sr. Anna: 613.729.8710  
[www.servantsofthecross.ca](http://www.servantsofthecross.ca)*

I have had a gentle love for arts, painting, drawing, and calligraphy. Two years ago, within the first month of getting to know water colouring, I began to paint some of my life experiences. I've named one of my favourite paintings "... My God, My Saviour!" Without Him, I know I could not be the person I am right now. Here is my water colour and it can be broken down into three main parts:

Growing up, life was seemingly ordinary, even keel. I grew up in a post-war era in Vietnam. I did not have a lot of friends or attend extra-curricular activities. I did not experience much joy or happiness or ups and downs. My poor hearing and vision may have played a huge impact in my life because my surroundings didn't affect me much. That's why the line in this part is horizontal and the colours are flat and plain.

When I came to the United States, being affected by some friends, I drifted away from the Catholic Church. Due to the choices I made, my life headed downward. It was a period that was emotionally painful, spiritually dark, empty, and fearful. I hit rock bottom. In my heart, I knew I needed to take action. And the only thing I could turn to was prayer.

God drew me back up through the Church and led me to the Charismatic Renewal movement. There, I experienced healing in many ways. I trustfully cooperated with God's grace and found myself transformed. In the painting, the steep line surrounded by yellow, orange, and red colours indicate that I have been lifted high and that I am totally in God's infinite mercy and love.



...My God, My Saviour!

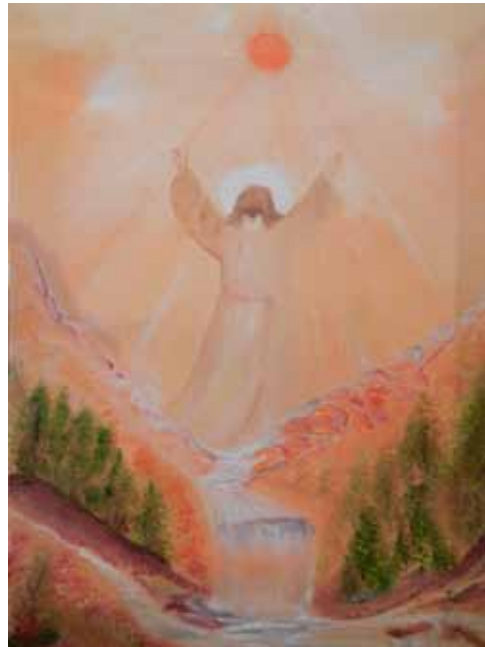
"... My God, My Saviour!" has so much meaning to me that I framed it and brought it up to Ottawa. I left art supplies at home, thinking that it was time to focus on what God wanted me to do instead. The Sisters soon learned of my interest in painting and added "art supplies" on the wish list of my Sister Shower. I'm thankful that the Sisters have encouraged me to develop my new-found love for painting (even though, with my formation and mission schedule, I rarely have spare time to sit down and practice my painting skills.)

Thanks be to God, whenever I have a free moment, I sit down and "play with my colours." My works are very simple and I am thankful to the Lord for gracing me with this gift where I can express my emotions, my longings, as well as the deepest desires of my heart.



I realize that painting is just like my spiritual journey – I don't know what lays ahead of me, but the more I walk in God's way, the more He reveals himself to me. I simply enjoy the process of painting and listening to what's on my heart. Often the paintings are my means of prayer and are written in a way as if God is speaking to me.

My latest "play with colours" is called the "Glory of Jesus' Ascension." This is what I heard the Lord say to me in my heart as I was painting my latest work:



Glory of Jesus' Ascension

*After the death and resurrection, I ascended into heaven. My ascension brings forth joy to heaven and earth. There is no sadness in my leaving you, because I go ahead 'to prepare a place for you in my Father's kingdom' (Jn 14:3), 'because I live forever to make intercession for you' (Heb 7:25), and 'because then the Holy Spirit will come upon you' (Jn 16:7) 'and teach you all things' (Jn 16:13).*

*The connected clouds represent the union of all creations in heaven. You being of one mind and heart with me allow my grace to flow easily, smoothly, and powerfully through you.*

*The river! "Wherever the river flows, every sort of living creature that can multiply shall live" (Ez 47:9). The farther the grace moves, the more it accumulates. Also I want to remind you of the virtue of humility and the importance of absolute dependence upon me so that you can partake in the life of the Spirit and be able to live joyfully, peacefully, and fruitfully.*

*My going back to the Father showed forth my glory and confirmed that I am the Son of God. Seek me alone, and you will be able to share the glory with me.*

# *Gracing Me With His Gifts*

*By Penelope Nguyen*



# EVANGELIZATION

FIRST, LAST, AND ALWAYS



† SERVANTS OF THE CROSS

## THE GOSPEL MESSAGE ISN'T TO BE WATERED-DOWN

“I began to present to the students the full challenge of the gospel - to step forward and hand their lives over to the Lord. This was certainly new. Previous to that, my approach had been to water the Lord’s message down in the hope that the students would be able to accept some of it. Now I was inviting them to **meet the Lord on his terms: total surrender.** ... It is my firm opinion that if the Lord can touch the life of an older teenager, he can do it to anybody.”



*Evangelization, A Challenge for the Catholic Church*  
by Fr Bob Bedard, CC.

*Chapter 5: Lord, if You’re Real, Show me! pg 19-20*

Servants of the Cross  
534 Edison Ave  
Ottawa, ON K2A 1V2  
613-729-8710  
[www.servantsofthecross.ca](http://www.servantsofthecross.ca)

Contact  
Sr. Anna Chan, SC  
Moderator