



**Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious Press Release
CMSWR Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life**

November 29, 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) announced its plans to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life which begins November 30, 2014, the first Sunday of Advent and runs through February 2, 2016.

“Pope Francis extolled those called to the consecrated life to ‘wake up the world,’” Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV, Superior General of the Sisters of Life and current CMSWR Chairperson explained. “We feel the excitement and urgency of inspiring in the hearts of all people a renewed sense of the revolutionary and living message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Based in Washington, D.C., the CMSWR was founded in 1992 with the canonical approval of St. John Paul II. The organization serves as a means of mutual support and collaboration among major superiors of religious institutes of women in the United States.

Contrary to the usual stereotypes concerning women religious in the secular media, the women entering the communities of the CMSWR today are young and vibrant and motivated by the love of Jesus and the beauty and necessity of the Gospel. Faithful to the Church, they put all of their feminine and maternal gifts at the service of those most in need, extending the Lord’s mercy and tenderness by caring for the elderly, those in need of shelter, pregnant women in crisis, children, and families.

The sisters of the CMSWR communities desire to be signs that “wake up the world” from the sleep of mediocrity or a life unaware of God’s love, so that each person may come to know the precious dignity that God imparts to them. Members represent 125 communities nationwide with approximately 6,000 sisters, of whom over 900 are in initial formation.

Events sponsored by the CMSWR for the Year of Consecrated Life include several “Days with Religious.” These events offer several opportunities for all people to come visit, meet with, work alongside, and pray with religious in their area. These will be co-sponsored with the USCCB, the LCWR and the CMSM. Current dates include:

- February 8, 2015: Open House Day. All are welcome to take a tour of a convent and learn about vocations from the religious sisters they meet.
- Summer, 2015: Days of Service alongside your Brothers and Sisters. Service day dates and activities will be announced locally. Stay tuned!
- September 13, 2015. Day of Prayer. All are welcome to public prayer hosted at local convents.

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