

this way you will day by day be renewed in Christ, in order with his Spirit to build fraternal communities, to join him in washing the feet of the poor, and to contribute in your own unique way to the transfiguration of the world. As it enters the new Millennium, may our world, entrusted to human hands, become ever more human and just, a sign and anticipation of the world to come, in which the Lord, humble and glorified, poor and exalted, will be the full and lasting joy for us and for our brothers and sisters, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Fifth Glorious Mystery

Leader: Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

All: Pray for us.

Hail Holy Queen, Litany

Closing Reflection:

Most Holy Trinity, blessed and the source of all blessedness, bless your sons and daughters whom you have called to praise the greatness of your love, your merciful goodness and your beauty.

Father Most Holy, sanctify the sons and daughters who have consecrated themselves to you, for the glory of your name. Enfold them with your power, enabling them to bear witness that you are the Origin of all things, the one Source of love and freedom. We thank you for the gift of the consecrated life, which in faith seeks you and in its universal mission invites all people to draw near to you.

Jesus our Savior, Incarnate Word, as you have entrusted your own way of life to those whom you have called, continue to draw to yourself men and women who will be, for the people of our time, dispensers of mercy, heralds of your return, living signs of the Resurrection and of its treasures of virginity, poverty and obedience. May no tribulation separate them from you and from your love!

Holy Spirit, Love poured into our hearts, who grant grace and inspiration to our minds, the perennial Source of life, who bring to fulfillment the mission of Christ by means of many charisms, we pray to you for all consecrated persons. Fill their hearts with the deep certainty of having been chosen to love, to praise and to serve. Enable them to savor your friendship, fill them with your joy and consolation, help them to overcome moments of difficulty and to rise up again with trust after they have fallen; make them mirrors of the divine beauty. Give them the courage to face the challenges of our time and the grace to bring to all mankind the goodness and loving kindness of our Savior Jesus Christ (cf. *Tit* 3:4).

Mary, image of the Church, the Bride without spot or wrinkle, which by imitating you "preserves with virginal purity an integral faith, a firm hope and a sincere charity", sustain consecrated persons on their journey towards the sole and eternal Blessedness. We ask you this, that in everyone and in everything glory, adoration and love may be given to the Most High Lord of all things, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. (Pope St. John Paul II)

The Beauty of Consecrated Life



Reflections from *Vita Consecrata*

"Vocation touches the very roots of the human soul.
It is an interior calling of God directed to the person:
to the unique and irreplaceable person."

Pope Saint John Paul II



Introduction

You know full well that you have set out on a journey of continual conversion, of exclusive dedication to the love of God and of your brothers and sisters, in order to bear ever more splendid witness to the grace which transfigures Christian life. The world and the Church seek authentic witnesses to Christ.

You know the one in whom you have put your trust: give Him everything! Young people will not be deceived: when they come to you, they want to see what they do not see elsewhere. An impassioned love of Jesus Christ is a powerful attraction for those other young people whom Christ in His goodness is calling to follow Him closely and forever.

Consecrated men and women, old and young alike, live faithfully your commitment to God, in mutual edification and mutual support! You have the task of once more inviting the men and women of our time to lift their eyes, not to let themselves be overwhelmed by everyday things, to let themselves be captivated by the fascination of God and of His Son's Gospel. Do not forget that you, in a very special way, can and must say that you not only belong to Christ but that 'you have become Christ'.

Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Mary's, Glory Be

Leader: Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

All: Pray for us.

First Reflection

It is the duty of the consecrated life to show that then Incarnate Son of God is the eschatological goal toward which all things tend, the splendor before which every other light pales, and the infinite beauty which alone can fully satisfy the human heart. In the consecrated life, then, it is not only a matter of following Christ with one's whole heart, of loving Him "more than father or mother, more than son or daughter" – for this is required of every disciple – but of living and expressing this by conforming one's whole existence to Christ in an all-encompassing commitment which foreshadows the eschatological perfection, to the extent that this is possible in time...

First Glorious Mystery

Leader: Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

All: Pray for us.

Second Reflection

It is the Spirit who awakens the desire to respond fully; it is He who guides the growth of this desire, helping it to mature into a positive response and sustaining it as it is faithfully translated into action; it is He who shapes and molds the hearts of those who are called, configuring them to Christ, the chaste, poor and obedient one, and prompting them to make His mission their own. By allowing themselves to be guided by the Spirit on an endless journey of purification, they become, day after day, conformed to Christ, the prolongation in history of a special presence of the Risen Lord... Those who by the power of the Holy Spirit are led progressively into

full configuration to Christ reflect in themselves a ray of the unapproachable light.

Second Glorious Mystery

Leader: Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

All: Pray for us.

HYMN OR MUSICAL REFLECTION

Third Reflection

The first duty of the consecrated life is to make visible the marvels wrought by God in the frail humanity of those who are called. They bear witness to these marvels not so much in words as by the eloquent language of a transfigured life, capable of amazing the world. To people's astonishment they respond by proclaiming the wonders of grace accomplished by the Lord in those whom He loves. The consecrated life thus becomes one of the tangible seals which the Trinity impresses upon history, so that people can sense with longing the attraction of divine beauty.

Third Glorious Mystery

Leader: Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

All: Pray for us.

Fourth Reflection

Those who have been given the priceless gift of following the Lord Jesus more closely consider it obvious that He can and must be loved with an undivided heart, that one can devote to Him one's whole life, and not merely certain actions or occasional moments or activities. The precious ointment poured out as a pure act of love, and thus transcending all "utilitarian" consideration, is a sign of unbounded generosity, as expressed in a life spent in loving and serving the Lord, in order to devote oneself to His person and His Mystical Body. From such a life "poured out" without reserve there spreads a fragrance which fills the whole house. The house of God, the Church, today no less than in the past, is adorned and enriched by the presence of the consecrated life.

Fourth Glorious Mystery

Leader: Our Lady of Mount Carmel,

All: Pray for us.

HYMN OR MUSICAL REFLECTION

Fifth Reflection

You have not only a glorious history to remember and to recount, but also *a great history still to be accomplished!* Look to the future, where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things.

Make your lives a fervent expectation of Christ; go forth to meet him like the wise virgins setting out to meet the Bridegroom. Be always ready, faithful to Christ, the Church, to your Institute and to the men and women of our time. In