



Bulletin Announcements

to observe WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE

To be inserted the weekend of November 9-10, 2019:

On November 21 (the Memorial of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple), the Church will celebrate the 66th annual WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE, an ecclesial event for all Catholics worldwide to commemorate the hidden lives of contemplative religious in cloisters and monasteries. We celebrate this day because the contemplative life is a gift from God to us all, because the entire world spiritually benefits from the prayers and sacrifices of these dedicated religious, even when we do not know it. On this day, the faithful are encouraged to reach out to the cloistered religious in their diocese, through prayer, encouragement, and material support.

Some concrete ways to do this are: participating in a novena and offering up Masses, writing notes of appreciation to contemplative communities, visiting them, and making a special point to teach families, religious education classes, youth groups, etc., about the tremendous value of the contemplative life. Pope Francis has said, *“It is a good opportunity to thank the Lord for the gift of so many people who, in monasteries and hermitages, dedicate themselves to God in prayer and silent work.”*

[Here mention any specific ways the parish or parishioners can commemorate this event. Also, note any cloistered convents or monasteries within the (arch)diocese.]

For more information visit CloisteredLife.com.

To be inserted the weekend of November 16-17, 2019:

This Thursday, November 21 (the Memorial of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple), the Church celebrates the 66th annual WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE, an ecclesial event for all Catholics to commemorate the hidden lives of cloistered and monastic religious. Ways to honor the event include prayer (participating in a novena, offering up Masses, etc.), encouragement (writing letters to contemplative communities, visiting them, calling to thank them, etc.), and material support (monetary donations).

Last year Pope Francis asked cloistered nuns gathered for a special conference in Rome: *“What would become of the Church without the contemplative life? What would become of the weaker members of the Church who find in you a support to continue the journey? What would happen to the Church and the world without the beacons that signal the port to those who are lost on the high seas, without the torches that illuminate the dark night we are going through, without the sentinels announcing the new day when it is still night?”*

For these very reasons the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE wishes to promote this annual celebration in the United States and encourage the faithful to support the cloistered life in any way they can.

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