



Bulletin Announcements to observe *Pro Orantibus* Day

To be inserted the weekend of November 13-14, 2010:

On November 21, the Church will celebrate *Pro Orantibus* Day (“For Those Who Pray”). The faithful around the world are encouraged to develop their own way of commemorating the day and honoring cloistered women and men religious at Mass and in other special ways, such as by offering up special prayers, by making visits to monasteries and cloistered convents, or by sending cards or letters to contemplative communities.

Pro Orantibus Day is intended to be a moment of thanksgiving and solidarity involving the entire Church. For as Pope Benedict XVI said in an *Angelus* message marking the annual event, “Let us thank the Lord for the sisters and brothers who have embraced this mission, dedicating themselves entirely to prayer and living on what they receive from Providence. Let us pray in our turn for them and for new vocations, and let us work to support monasteries in their material needs.”

[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 www.cloisteredlife.com.

To be inserted the weekend of November 20-21, 2010:

Today, November 21, is *Pro Orantibus* Day (“For Those Who Pray”), honoring cloistered and monastic life. It is a day of thanksgiving, solidarity and support for religious women and men who offer their entire lives in contemplative union with Jesus and interceding for the salvation of the world.

Pope John Paul II established this worldwide ecclesial event in 1997 as a way to provide spiritual and material support to “the Church’s vanguard on the road to the Kingdom.”

Pope Benedict XVI has spoken often of the tremendous value of the cloistered, contemplative life. Speaking to a group of cloistered Dominican nuns in Rome this past June, he referred to such religious as “the heart” which provides blood to the rest of the Body of Christ.

Special promotion of this annual celebration is being coordinated in the United States by the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE (IRL).

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