



Bulletin Announcements **to observe WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE**

To be inserted the weekend of November 11-12, 2017:

On November 21 (the Memorial of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple), the Church will celebrate WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE, an ecclesial event for all Catholics worldwide to commemorate the hidden lives of consecrated 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 and contemplative communities 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 18-19, 2017:

This Tuesday, November 21 (the Memorial of the Presentation of the Virgin Mary in the Temple), the Church celebrates 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).

A few years ago at a general audience in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Francis reminded the Church, “Let us give thanks to the Lord for the powerful testimony of cloistered life.” He also urged the faithful to lend their spiritual and material support to these brothers and sisters of ours “so that they can carry out their important mission.”

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

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