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**2017 WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE**  
**—Pro Orantibus Day (“For Those Who Pray”)—**  
**Scheduled for November 21, 2017**

Chicago, IL—Catholics throughout the world are encouraged to support the cloistered and monastic life on WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE, which is Tuesday November 21, 2017, the Memorial of the Presentation of Mary in the Temple.

“The primary purpose of WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE, traditionally known as *Pro Orantibus Day* (“For Those Who Pray”), is to support—both spiritually and materially—the gift of the cloistered and monastic life,” notes Rev. Thomas Nelson, O. PRAEM., National Director of the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE. And as Pope Francis reminds us, “it is an opportune occasion to thank the Lord for the gift of so many people who, in monasteries and hermitages, dedicate themselves to God in prayer and in silent work.”

Pope Pius XII first instituted this ecclesial worldwide event in 1953 to publicly recognize women and men who so generously give of themselves to this unique calling and who each day, from the various convents and monasteries spread throughout the world, offer prayer unceasingly. Pope St. John Paul II later expanded its celebration and encouraged Catholics to support this sublime vocation in any way possible.

Since his election, Pope Francis has strongly encouraged the faithful to express appreciation to cloistered women and men, especially on this day dedicated to them. “Let us thank the Lord for the witness of the cloistered life and let us not fail them in our spiritual and material support in accomplishing such an important mission.”

The nationwide effort to publicize WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE (*Pro Orantibus Day*) is coordinated by the INSTITUTE ON RELIGIOUS LIFE. The IRL was founded in 1974 by Servant of God Rev. John A. Hardon, S.J., and is comprised of bishops, priests, religious and laity who support and promote the vowed religious life.

A free packet of resources is available online, including a meditation for this occasion at [CloisteredLife.com](http://CloisteredLife.com).

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*The cloistered religious featured on the 2017 WORLD DAY OF CLOISTERED LIFE logo is from the Carmelite Monastery of Santa Fe, New Mexico. The community’s website is [CarmelofSantaFe.org](http://CarmelofSantaFe.org).*