

TRANSFORMATION

NOTHING LESS THAN EXCELLENCE

Vol. 11 | Iss. 1 | Spring 2009

Consecrated Life: *Gift for Today & Tomorrow*

Consecrated Life: Gift for Today & Tomorrow was the theme of the 2008 National Conference of Vicars for Religious. In addressing the topic, Ron Rolheiser, OMI, suggested realities to which we need to pay heed today for the sake of our tomorrow:

1. External Signs

- Marginalization of religious life within the culture as a whole
- Growing levels of 'apartheid' between many religious communities and the diocesan church, as well as among religious communities – tensions which make religious life ripe for their prophetic role
- Failure of religious communities to capture the romantic imagination of today.

2. Internal Signs

- Loss of a true affective center within religious life characterized by a weak mysticism
- A certain hardness of heart, based on fear, toward expressions of religious life different than our own
- A failure to bring religious life as a whole to a new level of gospel living.

3. Directions for the Road Ahead

- To integrate into our hearts both the kenotic and triumphal Christ
- To incarnate a new maturity, free of fear – a pioneer task
- Address polarization[s] affecting religious life, a counter-cultural stance in today's US

4. The Deeper Task of Leadership – to Mature Religious Life

- To incarnate and radiate health, hope and life
- To protect the members even while pushing them in terms of gospel risk
- To absorb the tension within and outside the community – to 'ponder' in the Biblical sense
- To find the paradoxical line between challenging members to real community while, at the same time, challenging them to greater individual responsibility
- To change water into wine!

Originally appeared in *Vital Signs*, the Newsletter of the Office of Consecrated Life, Washington, DC.

Living Community in the 21st Century

THE 4TH GIVING VOICE NATIONAL GATHERING

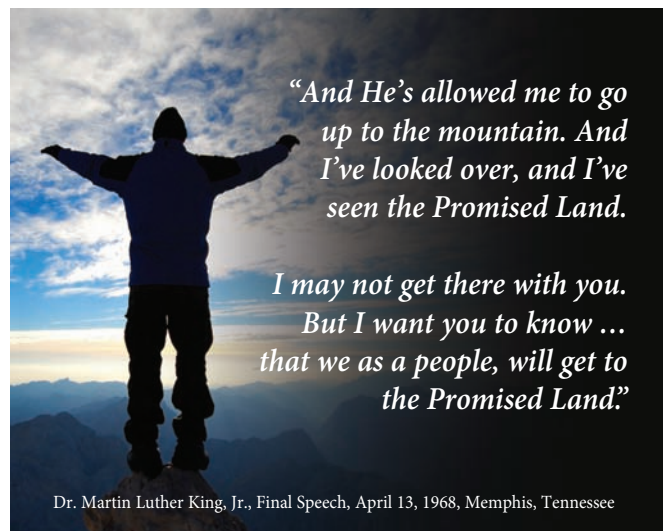
Alverno College, Milwaukee, WI, June 11-14, 2009

In this, the fourth intercongregational national conference sponsored by Giving Voice, we invite you to join conversations as we continue to articulate the experiences of religious life of women under 50. **Luisa Saffiotti, Ph.D.** will offer her insights and learnings and **Maria Cimperman, OSU** and **Katherine Feely, SND** will engage us in a process that will open spaces for new learnings to emerge, moving us towards creating life-giving experiences of community. Our days will include input from across the Giving Voice Generations (the 20s, 30s, and 40s) and many spaces for meaningful conversations about religious life.

Just as in the other intercongregational national conferences sponsored by Giving Voice, there will be a limited number of spaces for sisters over 50 so to provide for intergenerational conversations. We will also include space for women under 50 discerning a call to religious life.

The cost of this conference (including room and most meals) is \$300 per person for double occupancy rooms, \$350 for a private room and \$250 for commuters. (Financial assistance is available.) The deadline for registration is May 1, 2009. The conference will begin the evening of Thursday, June 11 and will end at noon on Sunday, June 14, 2009.

Check the Giving Voice website (www.giving-voice.org) for more information and registration forms.





CONGRESS 2009

Called to the Mountain: Blessing and Hope

November 12-15, 2009 • Denver Marriott Tech Center, Denver, CO

Pre-Congress Workshops

*Orientation to Formation: Formators and Leaders Together
Creating a Preferred Future*

Presenters: Don Bisson, FMS and Mary Ann Seton
Lopiccolo, SC

*Dimensions of Reconfiguration – Transformative
Experiences for Individuals, Communities, and
Religious Life*

Presenters: Janet Fleischhacker, CSJ and Steve Glodek, SM

Keynote Speakers

Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD

*A View from the Mountain: Called to Create New Criteria
for Measuring the Vitality of Religious Life*

Donna Markham, OP

*Blessing and Hope: Creating a Vision for Religious Life in
the 21st Century*

Plenary Session

*Group Story Telling: Tell the Vision: Stories of
Blessing and Hope*

Facilitator: Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN

Seminar Sessions

*The Influence of the Digital Age on Religious Life: Call,
Commitment, Community*

Presenter: Sr. Rose Pacatte, FSP

Vocation and Formation Ministry: The Ties that Bind or Unbind

Presenters: Maria Hughes, ASC and Paul Bednarczyk, CSC

*Lifelong Formation for Living in Right-Relationship: "...
only this: Act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly
with your God..." (Micah 6)*

Presenter: Luisa Saffiotti, PhD

Forming Disciples of Hope

Presenter: Loughlan Sofield, ST

Available Resources

1. RFC Manuals:

Volume I – *Financial & Legal Matters; Canon Law Matters;
Immigration Matters; Resource Listings*

Volume II – *Curriculum; Assessment; Multiculturalism;
Psychological Care*

Volume III – *Code of Professional Ethics for Formation
Ministers; Record Keeping & Confidentiality; Welcoming
Communities; Priestly Formation for Religious Men*

Volume IV – *Role Descriptions & Models for Choosing,
Assessing and Valuing Formation Ministers; Tools for Assessing
Programs; Formation for a Prophetic Way of Life; Formation for
Transfer Religious*

2. Proceedings 2007:

Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire (English and Spanish)

3. Videotapes:

*RFC National Workshop 1999 – 2000: "Living Vows – Renewing
the Face of Our Earth"* by Alexandra Kovats, CSJP

*RFC National Workshop 1999 – 2000: "Living Vows – Renewing
the Face of Our Earth"* by Paula Gonzalez, SC

Please call Religious Formation Conference Office at 301-588-
4938 OR email rfc@relforcon.org for pricing information.