

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

February 4, 2007

*This is the text of a Reflection given at all masses (4)
in St. Peter & Paul Basilica, Lewiston, Maine
by Daughter of Wisdom Sister Maureen Hurley*

We are among you!
You don't always recognize us, but we are among
you.
Who are we?

We are men and women who have been consecrated by God
to live a life of love totally
dedicated to Jesus Christ, through the public profession of the
vows of Celibacy, Poverty and Obedience.

We are sons and daughters of the Church. The Church
receives our vows and asks God's grace for us by its public
prayer. We, in turn, live a life of service to the Church and to
the welfare of all humanity.

I entered Religious Life when I was 30 years old, after teaching music in the public schools for 10
years. I engaged in various relationships – looking for love. I had a new car, a fur coat; I loved nice
clothes and jewelry, and I traveled – seeking fulfillment and I came and went as I pleased, more or
less, believing I was free. But one day I discovered that God was love and then my search for love
became a search for God. As I have grown older, I have also grown to know Jesus more deeply – his
values, his concerns, his feelings, and I have sought – not just to imitate him – but to identify with
him and so allow him to shine through me to others.

Why are we asking you today to pray for Consecrated Life – to pray that others might consider this
way of life a viable option?

Because we try, by our total dedication to Jesus, to bring his presence, his love and his hope to others.
We witness to the world by our vows –

by our vow of celibacy, we witness that love is more than sex;
by our vow of poverty, we witness that material things do not bring fulfillment;
and by our vow of obedience, we witness that power is not freedom.

Those of us who live in community try to witness to the possibility that people of different
backgrounds, cultures and values can share a life of unity, support and love for one another. We also
spend time in prayer – to give us the quiet needed for union with God and to give us the grace and
courage we need to live our commitment.



We believe that many ways of life are part of revealing the Kingdom of God. We believe that God is still calling and inviting men and women to Consecrated Life. We ask you to encourage others you may know who seem to have a sense of God's presence in their lives. Support them and pray for them.

Religious life has been good for me. I have grown and matured as a person – and learned to love. My spiritual journey towards union with God has been exciting and by serving his people, I have felt that I have contributed to bringing about the Kingdom. So encourage others. Pray for them and we ask that you also pray for us.