

World Day of Consecrated Life

2nd February, 2024



School Assembly

1. Sign of the Cross:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2. Welcome and Introduction:

Dear friend, we are excited to invite you to join us in celebrating the World Day of Consecrated Life 2024. God calls all of us through the sacrament of Baptism to holiness. The word "consecration" is used in the Catholic Church as the setting apart for the service of God of both persons and objects. Consecrated men and women are those who decided to follow God by being sisters, brothers, religious priests. Today is a special to honour and acknowledge the dedicated individuals who have chosen a life of consecration to serve God and the Church. Let us also ask the Lord to send more men and women to serve him and the people in need.

In 1997 St John Paul II instituted a 'World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life' on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas Day, which highlights the fact that Christ is the light of the world through the symbolic lighting of the candles. Just like the candles we too, the consecrated men and women need to share the light of Christ to all the people. Each year the Church has thanked God for the gift of the different forms of consecrated life and pray that our Church will continue to be enriched by the life and witness of consecrated men and women.

3. The Theme - Purpose of Assembly:

Today we are gathered to thank God for all the consecrated men and women in the church throughout the world. Let us pray for the consecrated people and for more vocations to consecrated life in the Church.

1. Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40.

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

1.Silence after Gospel (1min)

2.Reflection

The International Day of Consecrated Life is celebrated each year on the Feast of the Presentation. The consecrated life takes many and varied forms but at the root of all of them is the handing over of oneself to Jesus Christ in his poverty, obedience and chastity.

May the light of this Feast Day and the work of the Holy Spirit lead more people to embrace the consecrated life in the image and likeness of Christ who alone is our way, truth and life.

+Alan Williams, sm

Catholic Bishop of Brentwood diocese

3.Piece of music

4.Final Prayer

God our Loving Father, we thank you for the life and testimony of men and women whom you have called to serve you as sisters, brothers and religious priests. Help them to be more and more rooted in you by following the evangelical counsels. We pray for those of them discerning their vocation, grant them the strength to respond to your call courageously.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

5. Let us now pray as Christ taught us to call God as:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Amen.