



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio



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ITE MISSA EST

Presentation of the Lord in the Temple!

As we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is on February 2nd, let us reflect upon it. The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is a marvelous sight that Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus into the Temple in Jerusalem.

Before our eyes, we can picture Mother Mary as she walks, carrying the Baby Jesus in her arms. She brings him to the Temple; she presents him to the people; she brings him to meet his people.

The Omnipotent and the Spotless who humbled himself as a baby presenting to His Father, God the Almighty. Let's observe what the evangelist Luke tells us of them, as he describes them. He says that Our Lady and St Joseph wanted to do what was required by the Law of the Lord (Lk 2:22). Here, we see how obedient His parents are to bringing baby Jesus in

the temple for fulfilling the Law of the Lord.

In 1997 Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached



to The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. The celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life is transferred to the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of the Consecrated life is born and reborn of an encounter with Jesus as he is: poor, chaste and obedient. Pope Francis

proclaimed his homily at Vatican Basilica: “We can see in this the beginning of consecrated life. Consecrated men and women are called first and foremost to be men and women of encounter.

Indeed, the vocation does not originate from a plan we have designed “on the drawing board”, but from a grace of the Lord which touches us, through a life-changing encounter. Those who truly encounter Jesus cannot remain the same as before. He is the novelty that makes all things new.

Those who experience this encounter become witnesses and make the encounter possible for others; they also promote the culture of encounter, avoiding the self-preferentiality that makes

us stay closed off within ourselves” (February 2, 2016).

Again, at the end of Mass, the Pope Francis blessed all the consecrated men and women and said; “do not forget the first call! Daily work and then the hope of going forward and sowing well, so that the others who come after us can receive the legacy that we shall leave them” (February 2,

2016). Let us admire the life of St. Therese of Lisieux as she reflected upon her union with God she became the Mother of souls, by Love. Also she said, “I understood that love comprises all vocations – that love is everything, and because it is eternal, embraces all times and places.

To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!

On behalf of Diocese of Columbus and Monsignor Kieran Harrington, the National Director of the Pontifical Missions in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial

Echoes of Our Lady in the Book of Wisdom: 7:22-30

For she is a breath of the power of God,

And a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty;

Therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her,

For she is a reflection of eternal light,

A spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness.

Though she is but one, she can do all things,

And while remaining in herself, she renews all things;

In every generation she passes into holy souls

And makes them friends of God, and prophets;

For God loves nothing so much as the man who lives with wisdom.

For she is more beautiful than the sun,

And excels every constellation of the stars.

Compared with the light she is found to be superior,

For it is succeeded by the night,

But against wisdom evil does not prevail.



De' Ricci was canonized by Pope Benedict XIV in 1746. Her feast day falls on February 13. She is a Dominican cloistered religious sister. De' Ricci lived in the convent until her death in 1590 after a prolonged illness. Her remains are visible under the altar of the Minor Basilica of Santi Vincenzo e Caterina de' Ricci, Prato, which is next to the convent associated with her life.

It is claimed that De' Ricci's meditation on the Passion of Christ was so deep that she spontaneously bled, as if scourged. She also bore the Stigmata. During times of deep prayer, like Catherine of Siena, her patron saint, a coral ring representing her marriage to Christ, appeared on her finger.

Catherine was born in Florence, Italy. In her very young age her beloved Father died. She was fond of catholic faith and loved and admired the passion of Jesus. She was more attracted to

consecrated life. In fact, her aunt was a Benedictine religious sister, who lived in a monastery. Also her uncle was a Dominican Friar.

Catherine completed her education in a catholic school run by Benedictine religious sisters where her aunt was the abbess. Catherine was a very prayerful person from a very young age, she developed a lifelong devotion to the Passion of Christ.

After a short time outside the monastery she entered a cloistered community of religious sisters of the Third Order of St. Dominic. In May 1535 she became a Dominican cloistered religious sister. She received a diamond ring from our Lord, that only she can see as a sign of her espousal to Him. She experienced "Ecstasy of the Passion" many times and she observed very strict penitential life and her prayer was: "My Crucified Jesus, wash me with your most Precious blood."



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