

LIVING FAITH

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



The Eight Beatitudes

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY: MATTHEW 5:1-10a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL

The Gospel that we hear proclaimed today is the near the end of a passage in the Gospel of Matthew known as "The Sermon on the Mount." In it, there is a very familiar passage known as "The Beatitudes," containing statements, each beginning with the words "blessed are..." These Beatitudes are the heart of Jesus' teaching (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1716). Why? The Beatitudes "shed light on the actions and attitudes characteristic of the Christian life; they are the paradoxical promises that sustain hope in the midst of tribulations; they proclaim the blessings and rewards already secured, however dimly, for Christ's disciples; they have begun in the lives of the Virgin Mary and all the saints." (CCC, 1717)

Just as the Beatitudes are the heart of Jesus' teaching, they also sum up who we are called to be. God calls each of us to be blessed, happy, a builder of the Kingdom of God here on earth and to live eternally in that Kingdom in heaven.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- What message might the Beatitudes have for you today?
- What do you think might be the significance of Jesus going up the mountain?
- What are some of the mountains, or difficult challenges that you face today?
- How can building a relationship with Jesus help?

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The "Bee Attitudes"



Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. Matthew 5:1-2 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

S	A	Y	X	O	L	B	G	C	Q	J	D	U	W	Z	N	T	R	P	E	V	I	M	K	H	F
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 7-20-2-17-22-17-13-12-20-1 _____
2. 19-5-5-18 _____
3. 1-19-22-18-22-17 _____
4. 23-5-13-18-16 _____
5. 23-20-20-24 _____
6. 25-13-16-8-20-18 _____
7. 23-20-18-9-22-26-13-6 _____
8. 19-13-18-20 _____
9. 24-22-16-8-12-5-23 _____
10. 25-20-2-21-20-16 _____

HUNGER	MOURN	SPIRIT	MERCIFUL	MEEK
POOR	PURE	KINGDOM	BEATITUDES	HEAVEN

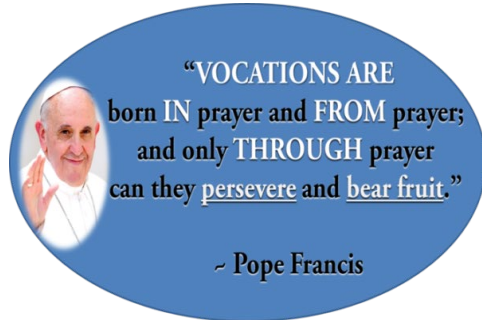
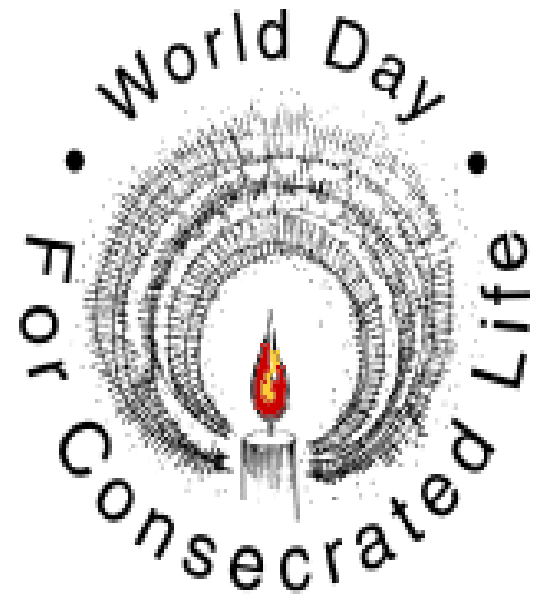
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THE CHURCH TEACHES WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE FEBRUARY 2

What is "consecrated life"? Those men and women who live what we describe as "consecrated life" are those who have consecrated their lives to God by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience.



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 on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples.

"This then is the consecrated life: praise which gives joy to God's people, prophetic vision that reveals what counts. Consecrated life is not about survival... this is the temptation of our days, in the face of declining vocations. No, it is not about survival, but new life. "But... there are only a few of us..." - it's about new life. It is a living encounter with the Lord in his people. It is a call to the faithful obedience of daily life and to the unexpected surprises from the Spirit. It is a vision of what we need to embrace in order to experience joy: Jesus" --Pope Francis, Homily on February 2, 2019



Mass for the 2026 World Day for Consecrated Life



In celebration of this year's World Day for Consecrated Life, Archbishop Hundt will be offering a Mass for the intentions of the women and men in vowed consecrated life in this Archdiocese. The Mass will be celebrated on Monday February 2nd, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, at 9:00 a.m. at the Basilica of St. John the Baptist. It will be followed by a small reception and opportunity to socialize. All are welcome to attend the Mass and reception. The Mass will be live streamed on:

<https://www.youtube.com/@BasilicaHeritageFoundation>

The World Day for Consecrated Life was instituted by Pope John Paul II " ... to help the entire Church esteem ever more greatly the witness of those persons who have chosen to follow Christ by means of the practice of the evangelical counsels and to be a suitable occasion for consecrated persons to renew their commitment and rekindle the fervor which should inspire their offering of themselves to the Lord."

We are blessed to have in our Archdiocese in vowed consecrated life members of the following Religious Orders: The Presentation Sisters, The Sisters of Mercy, The Christian Brothers, The Jesuits, The Redemptorists and The Vocationists.

Coming Up



WORLD
DAY OF
THE SICK
11 FEBRUARY 2026

February 11 highlights the healing ministry of the Church and recognizes health care and pastoral care workers tending to those afflicted with illness and disease. We will reflect on this day further next week.