



PRAYER

FOR THE EVE OF THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE
AND ALSO AT OTHER TIMES DURING THE YEAR

[The following reflection and prayer draws on material from: “Rejoice! A Letter to Consecrated Men and Women” from the teachings of Pope Francis]

You may like to make yourself a ‘sacred space’ focus for your prayer... perhaps a candle, some music for reflection ...

Give yourself time to enter into the quiet and allow the truth of the presence of God with you and within you to come to greater awareness in you.






Reflection



During this coming year we are invited to

“make a grateful remembrance of the recent past.”




-  What memories arise in you which call you into a stance of gratitude before God?
-  Spend a moment treasuring these memories in your heart.
-  What is your prayer today?

Response: God of Mercy, I bow before you in gratitude.



This coming year invites us to

“embrace the future with hope.”




-  What is your hope for the future?
-  Do you have a sense of how God is beckoning you?
-  In the quiet, listen for God’s word for you today?

Response: God of Mercy, I bow before you in hope.



This coming year we are invited to

“Live the present with passion.”

-  What is it in your life now which calls forth in you a passion that is ‘of God’?
-  Stay with this for a moment, noticing the depth of feeling within you.
-  Thank God that you are alive and that God’s Spirit moves in you.

Response: God of Mercy, I bow before you in thanksgiving for that which sets my heart on fire.



ENTERING INTO PRAYER

The Constitutions of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea remind us that:

*“Our commitment in hope demands
a new way of living;
a loving contemplation of the Word;
a taking on of Christ’s mind,
within a faith filled community.” #5.01*

LET US JOIN IN SPIRIT WITH ALL OUR SISTERS:

*“I want to say one word to you and this word is ‘Joy’.
Wherever consecrated people are there is always joy.”*

[Pause to let these words of Pope Francis speak to your heart]

We pray, conscious that our lives and our world have been gifted with the Spirit of God. May we allow the fruits of the Spirit to grow deep within us, that we may give joyful witness to the Gospel.

For the presence of God’s Spirit in us, we give thanks.



*“Religious follow the Lord in a special way, in a prophetic way.
It is this witness I expect of you.
Religious should be men and women able to wake the world up.”*

[Pause for reflection....]

We pray, remembering our challenge to model our lives on Jesus, that we might live life in all its fullness and invite others to do the same. May our lives of love proclaim our following of Jesus and bear witness to a more authentic way of being in our world.

For our call to live prophetically, we give thanks.



“In practical terms it (consecrated life) is a call to take up Jesus’ way of life, to adopt his interior attitude, to allow oneself to be invaded by his Spirit, to absorb his surprising logic and his scale of values, to share in his risks and his hopes.”

[Pause for reflection]

We pray, remembering Jesus and his dream of God’s Kingdom on earth, and recalling how he entrusted the continuation of his mission to his disciples. May we grow every day deeper into the mind and heart of Jesus as we continue to answer God’s call.

For our call to share in the Mission of God, we give thanks.



“Since we are witnesses of a communion beyond our vision and our limits, we are called to wear God’s smile. Community is the first and most believable gospel that we can preach.”

[Pause for reflection]

We pray, aware that our call to live in communion is a constant challenge and an enduring blessing. May we recognize and nurture the contagious witness of joy, serenity, tenderness and love to which we are called. May the smile of God within our lives draw others to respond generously to God’s call for them.

For God’s invitation to love within community, we give thanks.



Concluding Prayer

Mary, Mother of Mercy,
Star of the new evangelization,
help us to bear radiant witness
to communion, service,
ardent and generous faith,
justice and love of the poor
that the joy of the Gospel
may reach the ends of the earth,
illuminating even the fringes of the world.
Mother of the living Gospel,
wellspring of happiness for God's little ones,
pray for us.
Amen.
Alleluia.



Some Suggestions for On-Going Reflection ...

Read the Letter "REJOICE" in its entirety... [\(READ IT HERE\)](#)

- Choose a variety of quotations which 'speak' to you and write them out on separate slips of paper, placing them in a special bowl and using them for a daily/weekly reflection focus.
- Use one of the quotations to create a mandala, a drawing, a painting, a sculpture, a poem, a prayer ...
- Take one part of the Letter which draws you to more authentic living. Use this as a basis for an examen of consciousness at the end of your day or week.