



# JOURNEYS

## URSULINE SISTERS

of the Roman Union † United States Provinces

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Dear Friends,

How do you want to spend your life? When are you most happy? What is significant enough for you to want to **consecrate** everything to it? These questions are right at the heart of all vocational discernment, and they require reflection, imagination and prayer--- a sifting of everything going on in one's life. Without fully pondering them, one will probably never be really happy.

The term **Consecrated Life** usually refers to those who respond to a call to follow Jesus by giving their lives through the profession of public Vows. Vatican statistics show that there are nearly one million people living this life within the church. Pope Francis has announced that 2015 will be a year focused on Consecrated Life, and he invites Religious women and men to "Wake Up the World" with their life and mission. The year will include gratitude for faithful witness, renewal of commitments, and an invitation to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation.

Why am I telling you this now? Well, perhaps you've considered **consecrating** your whole self to God in Religious life. If so, you might use this **Year of Consecrated Life**, which actually begins this November, to really explore the possibility, learn more about the life, and celebrate the gift that Religious life is to our Church and world. Make it a whole year of discernment!

Sincerely,



### For Reflection

- In what ways do you feel our world needs to be awakened? How would you like to be a part of that?
- What does the word "consecrate" mean to you?
- To what are you willing to *consecrate* your time, energy, and passion? Why?

Angela Merici

## Scripture Helps

**Joshua 3:5** “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” Tell the Lord what *wonders* you feel you need in your life and in your world. Pray to discern what kind of consecration this might require of you.

**John 17:17-21** Jesus prays here for us, his friends. “*Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth.*”

Ask him to show you the *truth* of who you are, your deep-down goodness and giftedness. Ask him to help you see how he calls you to be consecrated to something worthwhile.



## Other Resources

Find some good help in this one page description of discernment: [“Discernment: Making Inspired Choices”](#)

Read this realistic and beautiful description of [Living the Vows](#) to learn more about Consecrated life.

Watch [AMBITION](#), a 3 minute video about some of the most ambitious accomplishments of humanity. What’s **your** AMBITION?

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“Wake up the world! Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living! It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord. Religious should be men and women who are able to wake the world up.”

-Pope Francis

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