



## THE DIOCESE OF KALAMAZOO

February 2, 2021

Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord/World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life

*To all..., beloved of God, called to be saints: grace to you and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:7)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The fundamental call to “be saints” received by all the baptized, is answered according to the gifts endowed by the Holy Spirit to each of us, in the circumstances and state of life, where our merciful Father is calling. Every year, on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, our Mother Church invites all of us to pray for those who answer God’s call in the way of the Profession of Vows, as she celebrates the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. The men and women who answer Our Lord’s invitation to “*come and see*” (*John 1:39*), experienced His immense love in such a way, that they decide to stay with Him.

On behalf of our diocesan church, I wish to praise and thank the Lord for the great gift of Consecrated Life in our midst. It is a gift that enriches our Christian communities with the magnificent variety of charisms of the Congregations and Institutes our religious sisters, brothers and men represent.

In our diocese we are blessed to have religious sisters and priests ministering and serving our people from the following orders: the *Sisters of the Congregation of Saint Joseph*; the *Dominican Sisters (Grand Rapids and Chicago)*; the *Religious Sisters of Mercy*; the *Congregation of the Holy Cross*; *Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales*; *Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit*; *Salesians of Don Bosco*; *Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Face*, plus many others serving in different parishes during these past 50 years since the founding of the Diocese of Kalamazoo.

To all of them, past and present, we are blessed by the seeds they planted with their ministry; seeds which are now blossoming and providing our diocese with an abundance of fruits.

On this occasion of the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, which is celebrated in our Parishes the weekend of February 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, I wish to invite each of you to pray for our wonderful religious sisters, brothers and priests, as we “ask the Master to send laborers to his vineyard”. [You may find a list on our diocesan website; [www.diokzoo.org](http://www.diokzoo.org)]

With my deepest gratitude, I entrust all of you to the mercy of God, and to the sure intercession of the great founder saints of these religious communities.

*Saint Joseph, pray for us,  
Saint Francis de Sales, pray for us,  
Saint John Bosco, pray for us.*

Christ, Our Lord, keeps calling each of us to a holiness which will invite others to “*come and see*” and by the Grace of God, “stay with Him”.

Assuring you of my daily prayers, and humbly asking for your prayers for me, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Paul J. Bradley  
Bishop of Kalamazoo