

Called to bear the love of God...  
the divine fire...  
everywhere

— St. Vincent de Paul



**YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE**  
**2015 CALENDAR**



SISTERS OF CHARITY  
OF LEAVENWORTH

[www.scls.org](http://www.scls.org)

# What is consecrated life?

Consecrated life is a gift given by Christ who chooses a person individually to respond to his great love in a special relationship as a sister, brother or priest. Christ asks persons to leave some aspects of the world (such as marriage and following secular goals) to put themselves at the service of their brothers and sisters. Consecrated life is a vocation just as marriage and diocesan priesthood are. Both men and women can choose to con-

secrate their lives to Christ as a way to seek an intimate relationship with him. These men and women give witness that Christ is ultimately the one to whom we are called to be united. Those in consecrated life generally join a religious order. Consecrated life is most often shared in a community which is united to live out a common mission together. (Office of Vocations, Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas)

## Pope Francis proclaims 2015 Year of Consecrated Life



**P**ope Francis has declared 2015 the Year of Consecrated Life to be celebrated throughout the world. This specially designated observance began the First Sunday of Advent, Nov. 30, 2014. It will close on the World Day of Consecrated Life, Feb. 2, 2016.

The Vatican has announced that the year has a three-pronged focus:

- Renewal for men and women in consecrated life.
- Thanksgiving among the faithful for the service of sisters, brothers, priests and nuns.

- An invitation to young Catholics to consider religious vocations.

The Pope emphasizes the importance of a radical commitment to religious life. “Consecrated life is prophecy,” he says. While recognizing that many religious orders face declining numbers, the Holy Father points to the impressive increase in membership among some religious communities, particularly in societies recently regarded as mission territory.

The key to preserving an active religious community, the Pope says, is being faithful to the charism (gifts and values) of the religious order and forming young members to pursue that charism. “We bishops must understand that consecrated persons are not helpers, but rather charisms which enrich dioceses,” the Pope said.

Helpful resources during the Year of Consecrated Life:



- “Catholic Social Teaching and the Vows,” Cincinnati, Ohio, April 2014, Simone Campbell, SSS.
- Constitution of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.
- Continental Congress on Vocations, Montreal 2002.
- “Joy of the Gospel, *Evangelii Gaudium*,” Pope Francis.
- National Religious Vocation Conference, [nrv.net](http://nrv.net) (resources, articles and CARA study).
- New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity, Patricia Wittberg, SND de N; Mary Wittberg, SC; and Mary Gautier.
- United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).
- Vincentian Family, [famvin.org](http://famvin.org).

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# *All the baptized are called to holiness.*

Within that primary call, there are more specific calls or vocations to ordained ministry, consecrated life, family life and the single life. The Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth join the universal Church community in observing the Year of Consecrated Life. We invite you personally to consider and/or to encourage young people to be open to calls to religious vocations.

## 2015 THEMES AT A GLANCE

### *January:*

Spreading the charism of St. Vincent de Paul

### *February:*

Relationship is at the heart of our very existence

### *March:*

Daily "Yes." "God wants only our hearts," St. Louise de Marillac

### *April:*

Care of Creation

### *May:*

Ongoing Formation

### *June:*

Jubilee

### *July:*

Social Justice

### *August:*

Missionary Heart

### *September:*

"The Spirit of God works quietly and gently," St. Vincent de Paul

### *October:*

Collaboration

### *November:*

Promoting a Culture of Vocations

### *December:*

Radical Availability



### *For more information about the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth:*

- Contact Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, Director of Vocations, [vickiL@scls.org](mailto:vickiL@scls.org) or 816-718-2660.
  - Visit [www.scls.org](http://www.scls.org).
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**SCL Associates in Billings, Montana, prepare sandwiches to serve persons who are homeless.**



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# January 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	27	28

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Spreading the charism of St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent modeled the love of God by serving the poor in his midst. Our understanding of Vincent's mission has expanded beyond ministering to those who are poor in material goods. Today, the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth (SCLs) and SCL Associates strive to relieve the suffering of those experiencing poverty of health, spirit, education and opportunity.

**ACTION:** Where and how are you being called to spread this Vincentian charism? Focus on opportunities to share the spirit of St. Vincent de Paul with those who are experiencing poverty in any of its many, different forms. See the face of Christ in these persons, as Vincent did.

					1 New Year's Day	2	3
4 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
18 Charity Federation Associates Build New Orleans, La.	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30 SCL Leaven Assembly	31	



Friendly Visitors enjoy time together in Leavenworth, Kansas; left to right, Kathy Roemer, Sister Mary Arthel Cline and Lee Alexander.



SISTERS OF CHARITY  
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# February 2015

*Love of God, love among yourselves,  
love of the poor.*

–St. Vincent de Paul

March 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Relationship is at the heart of our very existence

We are called to live not only as individuals, but in relationship to one another and as community. How do you define your community(ies)? You may have many overlapping circles of family, friends, co-workers. Do they know who you are and what you value?

**ACTION:** Call someone with whom you haven't connected lately. Visit someone who is homebound or lives alone. Share the love of Christ that is burning brightly in your heart. Share your story and invite them to share theirs.

1	2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17 Mardi Gras	18 Ash Wednesday	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28



**SCL Candidate Laurie Parker receives a blessing from (left to right) Sisters Kathleen Marie Henscheid, Mary Geraldine Yelich and Mary Pat Lenahan.**



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# March 2015

April 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	27	28	29	30		

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

**Daily “Yes.” “God wants only our hearts,”  
St. Louise de Marillac**

St. Louise de Marillac was a daughter, wife, mother, friend, widow, founder, sister, pioneer, companion, leader. Through the twisted path of her life, she found her faith to be her constant, guiding light. She did not always understand all details of the task at hand, but she saw the need to journey with the young women she gathered as sisters to help them become their best selves.

**ACTION:** Now is the time to be a mentor to youth, a time to practice the “preferential option for the young.” Young people are seeking personal guidance – someone to listen to them carefully and help them discover their gifts, talents and God’s will. Are you able to accompany at least one young person?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 8-14 National Week of the Sister					Midwest I SCL Spring Regional
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
St. Louise de Marillac		St. Patrick’s Day			First Day of Spring	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Feast of the Annunciation		Ross Hall SCL Spring Regional	Midwest II SCL Spring Regional
29	30	31				
Palm Sunday						

# *Caring for the earth, air and water*

**Sister Mary Jo McDonald has dedicated many years advocating for clean air, soil and water in Butte, Montana.**



**Sister Rejane Cytacki and some young gardeners reap the bounty from Mother Earth.**



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# April 2015

*Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need, but not every man's greed.*

**– Mahatma Gandhi**

May 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

## Care of Creation

Growth and new life can be witnessed in many forms. We are called to partnership by planting and nurturing seeds of faith in our youth. How can you support your local youth minister?

**ACTION:** Contact your local youth minister or campus minister. Ask him/her what their needs are. Plug in some of the gifts you may have to support them in their ministry. Youth ministers have a relationship with the future of the Church. Provide them with a prayer service or a service site; be a guest speaker or offer homemade cookies for their next event.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				Holy Thursday	Passover begins Good Friday	Holy Saturday
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Easter Sunday						Montana Spring SCL Regional
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
						Colorado Spring SCL Regional
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Earth Day			
26	27	28	29	30		



Each year, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth come out in great numbers to participate in the Blisters for Sisters event sponsored by Kansas City area Serra Clubs.



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WAKE UP THE WORLD!  
— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —

# May 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	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	27
28	29	30				

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Ongoing Formation

The encouragement Pope Francis offers through the Year of Consecrated Life pertains to all of us:

- Make a grateful remembrance of the recent past.
- Live in the present with passion.
- Embrace the future with hope.

**ACTION:** Invite people to gather to discuss an article on faith. The text by Pope Francis, "The Joy of the Gospel: Evangelii Gaudium," is timely with an accompanying study guide and pod cast available through the Catholic Theological Union (ctu.edu).

						1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
				National Day of Prayer			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	
Mother's Day				Ascension of Jesus			
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Pentecost	Memorial Day						
31							

# Four of the group of SCLs marking Golden Jubilees in 2015



Sister Janet Cashman currently serves in South Sudan, educating nursing students.



Sister Peg Johnson shares her love of music with many people.

Sister Lucy Walter (left), 2015 Golden Jubilarian, shares a laugh with Sister Mary Carlo Colibraro.



Sister Mary Patricia Johnson practices with Cristo Rey students who are members of the high school's choir.



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# June 2015

July 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			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	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Jubilee

The 50th year of consecrated life is sacred and special. The SCL Community gathers each June to rejoice with the Sisters marking their Golden Jubilees. There are many reasons to celebrate the graces and blessings that God has bestowed upon us.

**ACTION:** Seize opportunities to celebrate the blessings of the daily gift of life: the birth of a child, the beauty of nature, graduation, a reunion with an old friend. Young people are drawn to communities that have living charisms that promote intentional time together spent in prayer, service and having fun. Include young adults in your celebrations.

	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	27
Father's Day Summer begins						
28	29	30				
SCL Jubilee Celebration	SCL Leaven Assembly					



**Sister Therese Bangert, SCL social justice coordinator, in Nogales, Ariz., at the wall constructed to keep migrants from entering the U.S. Sister attended a Mass memorializing the almost 6,000 migrants who have died in the U.S. desert since 1996.**



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# July 2015

August 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						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	27	28	29
30	31					

... let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.

—Hebrews 10:2

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Social Justice

Living with compassionate hearts, each of us strives to model a preferential option for the poor. We are the hands and feet of God on this earth. The SCL Social Justice Committee focuses on three major issues:

- 1) Safe Clean Life-giving (SCL) Water Filter Project;
- 2) Immigration; and
- 3) Peace.

**ACTION:** Keep updated on current issues and commit yourself to work for peace and justice. Think about being part of both footprints of social justice: one for charity in action and one for systemic change. SCLs and SCL Associates are encouraged to follow-up on requests and suggestions for action posted on The Daily News.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

# *SCLs on mission in Peru, South Sudan*

**Sister Patricia Johannsen conducts a workshop with teachers from St. Mary Primary School in South Sudan. Teachers that she trains do their practice teaching at this school.**



**Hermana Susan Córdova Castillo prays with women gathered for worship in southern Peru.**



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# August 2015

Let your joy be in the doing and not in the end.

–Mother Xavier Ross  
SCL Foundress (1858)

September 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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
27	28	29	30			

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Missionary Heart

The missionary heart seeks to communicate the truth of the Gospel. Aware of its own limitations, it makes itself weak with the weak....It never closes itself off, never retreats into its own security, never opts for rigidity and defensiveness ...It always does what good it can, even if in the process its shoes get soiled by the mud of the street. *(Adapted from "The Joy of the Gospel")*

**ACTION:** Do something that stretches you out of your comfort zone. Invest some time with our immigrant/refugee brothers and sisters in your area. Assist someone struggling at the grocery store; offer to tutor English; help someone navigate the social service agencies in your area. Be spontaneous.

							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15
							Assumption of Mary
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29
30	31						



Mass in Annunciation Chapel is at the heart of many SCL community celebrations and gatherings.



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# September 2015

October 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				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	27	28	29	30	31

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

**“The Spirit of God works quietly and gently,”  
St. Vincent de Paul**

“The beginning and end of our coming together as Sisters of Charity is our Lord Jesus Christ who in his church has called us now, in these days to worship the Father with our whole lives.” (Norm 1 from the Constitution of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth)

**ACTION:** Strive to cultivate a spirit of prayer by giving prayer a priority of time, by integrating contemplation and apostolic love, by seeking ever deeper knowledge and experience of prayer, scripture and liturgy and by fostering an atmosphere of prayer in our homes. (Norm 20)

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Montana Fall SCL Regional
20	21	22	23 Autumn begins	24	25	26 Colorado Fall SCL Regional
27 St. Vincent de Paul	28	29	30			

SCL Associates Len and Kitty Bronec demonstrate the simplicity of the newest version of the water filter system that SCLs and Associates are making available in communities where SCLs serve in Peru, South Sudan and this country.

## *Making water clean around the world*

A young woman at a home for teenagers in Piura, Peru, enjoys clean water thanks to the water filter donated by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth. The SCLs donated the filter to the Daughters of the Immaculate Mary (pictured below), who operate the home.



SISTERS OF CHARITY  
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# October 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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	27	28
29	30					

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

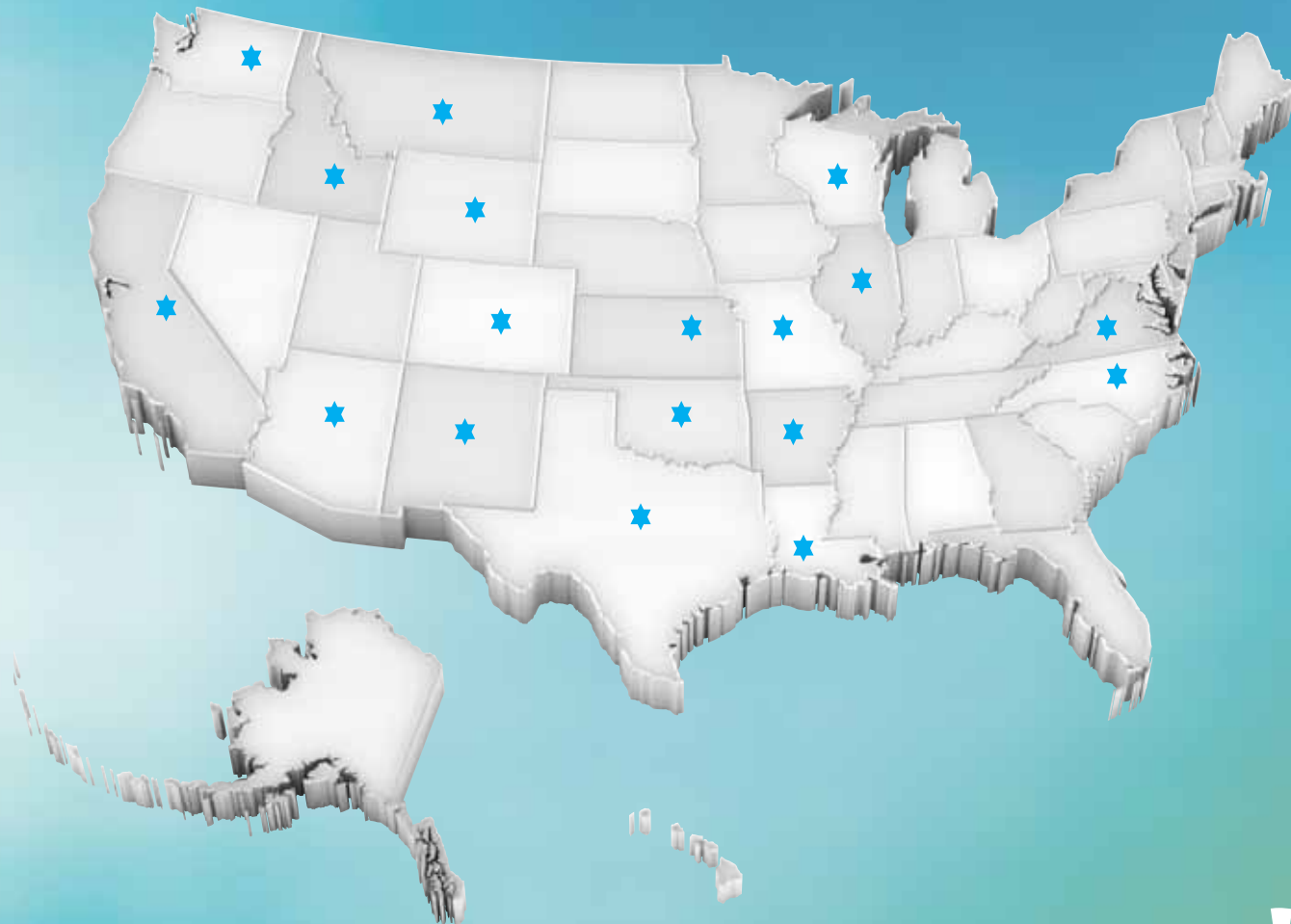
## Collaboration

“We are called, as collaborators in the pastoral work of vocations, to be a reflective image of the Person of Jesus and a trusted messenger of God to His people; to personal and communal conversion rooted in prayer and in sacramental celebrations; to ongoing catechesis within our homes and parishes; and to be authentic and generous in our daily witness to Jesus. From this renewed living of the Christian life will come vocations at every level, including those to ordained ministry and consecrated life.” (*Continental Congress on Vocations*)

**ACTION:** Collaborate with the greater Vincentian family: Ladies of Charity, Vincentian Priests or St. Vincent de Paul Society. Visit the famvin.org website for prayers, activities, national and international efforts.

					1	2	3
							Midwest I SCL Fall Regional
						Ross Hall SCL Fall Regional	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Midwest II SCL Fall Regional
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	Columbus Day						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Halloween

# Sisters and SCLs Associates minister globally



South Sudan, Africa



Peru, South America



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WAKE UP THE WORLD!  
— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —



# November 2015

*Be simple, pure in intention,  
and you will seize hearts for  
God.*

**–Mother Xavier Ross  
SCL Foundress (1858)**

December 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		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
27	28	29	30	31		

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Promoting a Culture of Vocations

We are all challenged by the Holy Father to “foster a culture of vocations.”

The number three seems to be critical in making a difference for the life of someone contemplating a vocation. When three or more people encourage someone to consider a religious vocation, he/she is far more likely to take serious steps toward answering that call.

**ACTION:** Invite, invite, invite. Invite a young person from your family, your parish or ministry site to consider consecrated religious life. Mention the qualities that you see in this individual that may be a good fit for religious life. If you know someone who is willing to visit with a Sister, please refer her to a Sister in your area or to Sister Vicki Lichtenauer, SCL vocation director, [vickiL@scls.org](mailto:vickiL@scls.org) or 816-718-2660.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
All Saints' Day Daylight Savings Time ends						
Vocation Awareness Week						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Founders' Day Veterans Day			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Thanksgiving Day		
29	30					
First Sunday of Advent						



**Sister Frances Russell enjoys the company of University of Saint Mary students during an event to introduce the young adults to the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth.**



SISTERS OF CHARITY  
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# December 2015

January 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					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	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

## Radical Availability

We are all called to be available to the people we love in our lives.

They matter to us and are important. Through vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, persons consecrated to religious life are able to be radically available – free to serve, minister and love more widely and where and when needed.

**ACTION:** Express prayerful gratitude to those who have made commitments to consecrated life as men or women religious. If you are a consecrated religious, give thanks to God for the gift of your vocation. Affirm everyone in his/her daily call to holiness.

		1	2	3	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent	7	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception	9	10	11	12 Our Lady of Guadalupe
13 Third Sunday of Advent	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent	21 Winter begins	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		

## 2015: THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

*Live in the deep heart of Charity:*  
**Making a grateful remembrance of the past**  
**Living the present with passion**  
**Embracing the future with hope**

SISTERS OF CHARITY  
OF LEAVENWORTH



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