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December 2014

The Year of Consecrated Life



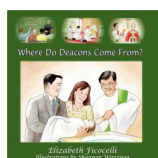
As the Catholic Church prepares to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations is promoting "Days with Religious" initiatives and resources to help families learn about the consecrated life of religious men and women.

Activities will focus on sharing experiences of prayer, service and community life with those living a consecrated life. "Our brothers and sisters in Christ living consecrated lives make great contributions to our society through a vast number of ministries," said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of USCCB. "They teach in our schools, take care of the poor and the sick and bring compassion and the love of Christ to those shunned by society; others lead lives of prayer in contemplation for the world." Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life, starting on the First Sunday of Advent, the weekend of November 29, 2014, and ending on February 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated life. (USCCB)

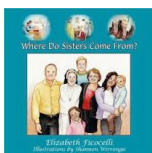
For more resources, materials, and videos visit the USCCB page on [The Year of Consecrated Life](#)

[An Undivided Heart: Pope John Paul II on the Deeper Realities of the Consecrated Life](#) (Book) Schumacher, Evelyn Ann Institute on Religious Life, 2002. Pope John Paul II's teachings on the mystery of the consecrated life. She presents the Holy Father's thoughts on the Call and the Vows that is helpful for novices and aspirants. (A)

[A Call to Mission](#) (DVD) Videos With Values, 2009. A look at how missions are being done both abroad and domestically with priests and nuns working alongside laypersons. Includes Catholic priests working with religious women in Zambia along with lay people, priests on a calling in Mexico; and laypersons helping the homeless in New Jersey. (S,A)



Vocation Awareness Books for Kids by Elizabeth Ficocelli Bezael Books



[Where Do Priests Come From?](#) 2010. This is a book for young children about discerning a call to the priesthood, and the process involved in becoming a priest. Topics include seminary formation, diocesan priests, religious orders, celibacy, and vestments. Written in simple language and illustrated in color. Includes a one-page vocabulary list. (P,I)

[Where Do Deacons Come From?](#) 2011. Deacons are sometimes mistaken for "junior priests" or "glorified altar boys." But these ordained men have their own special vocation of service to the Church. This book explains the deacon's important role. (P,I)

[Where Do Sisters Come From?](#) 2010. A colorfully illustrated picture book that gives young girls a glimpse into religious life. The author describes the call to religious life with clarity and simplicity. (P,I)

[No Greater Love: A Unique Portrait of the Carmelite Nuns](#) (DVD) Hot Property Films, 2011. Gives insight into this closed world of Discalced Carmelite Nuns where the modern world's materialism is rejected; they have no television, radio or newspapers. The film interweaves a year in the life of the monastery with the daily rhythms of Divine Office and work. It follows a year in which a novice is professed and one of the older nuns dies. Though mainly a meditational film, there are several interviews with the nuns, which offer insights into their lives, faith, moments of doubt and their belief in the power of prayer in the heart of the community. (A)

[Brothers and Sisters: Glimpses of the Cloistered Life](#) (Book) Monaco, Frank, Marlowe & Co., 2001. Monaco has often been welcomed as a guest within the walls of enclosed monasteries and convents. Brothers and Sisters brings together many of the images he has taken of monks and nuns at work, at prayer, and in the service of their communities. The photographs are accompanied by extracts from the simple rules-from the Benedictines, Carmelites, and others-that these men and women have elected to follow. (S,A)

[Beloved: The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia](#) (DVD) Ignatius Press, 2013. This joyful, holy community of Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, Tennessee reveal their love for Christ and neighbor, and show what it means to live the consecrated life of teaching and contemplation. (S,A)

[Into Great Silence](#) (DVD) Zeitgeist Films, 2007. Film about a Carthusian monastery in the French Alps, which follows the cloistered monks in their daily routines. German filmmaker Philip Groning's respectful no-frills approach skillfully captures the textures and rhythms of their highly structured existence, resulting in a rewarding -- and, due to the film's austerity and nearly three-hour length -- somewhat demanding cinematic and spiritual experience. (A)

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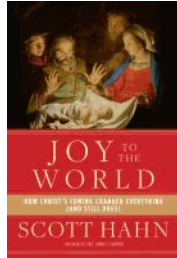
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New Books & DVDs

[Joy to the World: How Christ's Coming Changed Everything \(And Still Does\)](#) (Book) Hahn, Scott, Image, 2014. What could be more familiar than the Christmas story—and yet what could be more extraordinary? The cast of characters is strange and exotic: shepherds and magicians, an emperor and a despot, angels, and a baby who is Almighty God. The strangeness calls for an explanation, and this book provides it by examining the characters and the story in light of the biblical and historical context. (A)



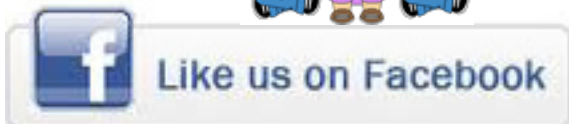
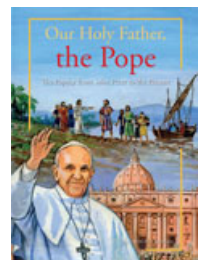
[St. Francis and Pope Francis: Prayer, Poverty, and Joy in Jesus](#) (Book) Schreck, Alan, Our Sunday Visitor, 2014. Alan Schreck, considers the times and messages of both St. Francis of Assisi and Pope Francis. St. Francis and Pope Francis brings together themes that are central to the mission of both of these men: Conversion - their stories are different but their message the same: turn to God, Prayer - union with Jesus is for everyone, Poverty - the imitation of Christ heals and restores, Church - faithfulness is the foundation for renewal, Mission - the same in every age: share the Gospel, Joy - the hallmark of Catholic life, and possible for us today. (A)

[Scripture: God's Handbook for Evangelizing Catholics](#) (Book) Binz, Stephen J., Our Sunday Visitor, 2014. Binz brings to light the power of scripture to not only renew our lives, but make us living witnesses of the Gospel. Inspired and influenced by Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, Binz shows us the indissoluble connection between their call to New Evangelization and its necessary connection to the Word of God. (S,A)

New Books for Kids

[Who is Sam Harrington?](#) (Book) Osborne, Rick. Zonderkidz, 2000. The answer to the question, "Who is Sam Harrington?" changed the town of Coledale forever—and might just change you, too! It was wonderful but mystifying...All over the sleepy little town, children were doing nice things for each other—with the comment, "It's what Sam Harrington would do!" In fact, so many kind deeds were being done that the adults began to ask, "Who is Sam Harrington?" Surprisingly, however, none of the children seemed to know! Finally, one evening, the entire town gathered at Coledale Community Church to solve the mystery. (P,I)

[Our Holy Father, The Pope/ The Papacy from Saint Peter to the Present](#) (Book) Caffery, Don R., Magnificat/Ignatius Press, 2013. Who was the first pope? Who is the pope today? What does he do? And why do we need one anyway? The answers to these questions and more can be found in this beautifully illustrated book for children. Our Holy Father, the Pope takes us back to the time of Jesus so that we can learn about the origins and role of the Papacy. The book includes brief biographies of some famous popes, a list of all the popes from Peter to the present, and a bibliography. (P,I,J)



[Writing to God: 40 Days of Praying With My Pen](#) (Book) Hackenberg, Rachel G., Paraclete Press, 2011. Offers forty insightful days of prayer and personal reflection. With poems and thoughts to prompt your own prayers, Writing to God will inspire you when you feel dry, help you voice your deepest complaints and greatest joys, and surprise you with fresh perspectives on God. Includes a special section of prayers and prompts for Holy Week and Easter. (S,A)

[Generations Together: Caring, Praying, Learning, Celebrating, & Serving Faithfully](#) (Book) Amidei, Kathie, Life-longFaith Publications, 2014. Presents the vision of a congregation that is becoming more intentionally intergenerational through its congregational life of caring, celebrating, learning, prayer, and serving. When a congregation commits itself to building a culture of intergenerationality through these five elements, each element becomes a sign of and instrument for the full experience of the Body of Christ by all ages and generations. Guides leaders in learning what this vision looks like in practice and how to guide a congregation in envisioning and designing projects and initiative to become more intentionally intergenerational. (A)

[C4: Christ and the Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) (DVD) Bishop Donald Hying, Archdiocese of Milwaukee, 2014. Designed for viewers aged 12 and older, C4 answers many frequently asked questions about the Church, daily life and even the afterlife. Auxiliary Bishop Don Hying of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee discusses the Catechism of the Catholic Church and his views on God's importance and relevance in our lives. (J,S,A)

[Lectio Divina Sharing the Word With the Holy Family](#) (DVD) EWTN, 2014. Karl Schultz, well known retreat leader and author, gives an in-depth presentation in this mini-series on the ancient Benedictine practice of Scripture reading, meditation and prayer. He shows how the four steps of Lectio Divina draw us in a deeper union with God, and gives us Christ's peace. Among the topics he covers include: Lectio Divina in the life of the Church and of the Believer; Encountering Jesus in the Flesh; and Nazareth, School of the Gospel. (A)

[Have You Filled a Bucket Today? A Guide to Daily Happiness for Kids](#) (Book) McCloud, Carol, Ferne Press, 2006. Through simple prose and vivid illustrations, this heartwarming book encourages positive behavior as children see how rewarding it is to express daily kindness, appreciation, and love. Bucket filling and dipping are effective metaphors for understanding the effects of our actions and words on the well-being of others and ourselves. (P,I)