



Office of the Bishop
Diocese of Toledo +

24 January 2020

Dear Priests, Deacons, Pastoral Leaders, Consecrated Religious,
and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Toledo,

Prayerful greetings in the Lord! This comes to highlight the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life, celebrated annually on the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, February 2, which falls on a Sunday this year. Pope Francis reminds us that, in the Eastern Churches, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord is also known as the Feast of the *Hypapante*, translated as “Meeting” or “Encounter.”

“Consecrated life is born and reborn of an encounter with Jesus as he is: poor, chaste and obedient.... [T]he consecrated life turns from fleeting riches to embrace the One who endures forever...frees our affections of every possession in order fully to love God and other people...chooses humble obedience as the greater freedom” (Pope Francis, Homily for the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 2 February 2018).

The Diocese of Toledo has been abundantly blessed for over 100 years by the witness of countless consecrated women and men. They have enriched the Church in northwest Ohio through their generous service in a wide array of ministries and apostolates, but most of all through their dedication to prayer and their example of steadfast faith and selfless charity. The World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life offers us an occasion to thank God for the gift of the consecrated life, which strengthens the whole Church and to thank those who live it out each day. Please join me in praying for the consecrated men and women who serve in our Diocese and for those from our Diocese who are in formation within various institutes of consecrated life. And we pray too that those whom the Lord is presently calling to be consecrated more intimately to His service may respond courageously to serve the Lord and His Church with generosity and humble commitment. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* ¶ 931).

May Christ, the Light of the world, find all of us eager to encounter Him in a spirit of gratitude and joy. With a prayerful remembrance, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo