

# LCWR to Celebrate Jubilee Day . . . But Not in Rome

Silver Spring, Md. (NC) -- The officers of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious will not attend the Feb. 2 Jubilee Day for Religious at the Vatican, but the organization is planning to mark the occasion in other ways.

Divine Providence Sister Lora Ann Quinonez, executive director of the LCWR, said that former members of the conference working in Rome will represent the conference at a Feb. 1 encounter on Religious life.

An Aug. 30 letter to Religious, which Sister Quinonez said was not received until late October, offered alternative suggestions for Religious to celebrate the Holy Year.

The letter, sent from Archbishop Mario Schierano, head of the Holy Year Committee, asked Religious to continue their solidarity with the poor, which Sister Quinonez said, "is right down our alley."

Members of the conference

will be informed of the Holy Year activities in the LCWR's next newsletter, she said, and they will be asked to focus their care for the poor particularly on the people of Central America.

The conference also will "ask all retired sisters in the United States to pray in thanksgiving" for the meaning of Religious life in the past and for its future, Sister Quinonez said.

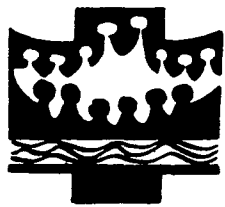
"Given the special circumstances" of the U.S. church and the Vatican's message to U.S. bishops on Religious life, "an important part of our celebration of the jubilee is to reflect on that," she said.

Sister Quinonez said Archbishop Schierano's letter contained a "very brief allusion" to obedience to the pope, which she felt did not overemphasize the pontiff as Religious' ultimate superior.

The letter said the Feb. 2 Mass would include a renewal of vows "into the hands of the Holy Father."

## Insights In Liturgy

By Sister Carolyn Knipper, RSM



## Advent: Simple Yet Profound

"Father, all-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming." ("Sacramentary", Alternative Opening Prayer, Fourth Sunday of Advent)

We are these days offered all kinds of help "to get our lives together," to find the best way, to live a good life well.

Advertisements are filled with gimmicks and gadgets to organize: our closets, our vegetables, our desk drawers, our mail that is coming and our mail that is going out. There is the feeling that if all is in order, great things will happen. We find a calendar in every purse or vest pocket, near every phone or on every desk; each box is filled with our plans for us as well as our plans for others. We sense that if we mark it down, much will be accomplished, all bases will be touched, there will be time for everything, our lives will be fruitful.

In last Sunday's prayer an astounding event took place -- the Eternal Word took flesh on earth. All of creation knew exaltedness -- a great thing happened for all people. Much was accomplished for all time to come. Every person alive and to be given life,

every aspect of creation was touched. A young girl's life was more fruitful than any other human life ever could or would be. How ironic! It was God's organization, not hers; it was God's time and date, not hers. This great event for all time happened when Mary placed her life at the service of God's plan.

It seemed to require so little of the frenzied effort, so much a part of our lives; a matter of the heart, a matter of attitude took precedence over the phenomena of organizational schemes and time management. Mary stood before God and accepted for her life His idea.

This is the week of the shortest day of the year. There is more darkness on Dec. 21 than on any other day before us or to come. From this day on, nature's light will be greater and brighter. May greater light be within us too. In its ray may we see anew how simple, yet profound our lives can be. Open to the Spirit, ever hopeful may we, too, simply place our lives at the service of God's plan. May His idea become our idea. May it be the Spirit that gives life to whom we become, what we do, and what we contribute to our world.

As we celebrate Mary's fulfillment of God's plan in the awesomeness of Christmas, we can only wonder what that response, one similar to hers, might mean for us and for our world.

Sister Carolyn Knipper, RSM, is school principal at Holy Cross Parish in Rochester and serves as a member of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission.

## Parish Deadline

Parish correspondents are advised that the deadline for submissions to At Your Parish is noon on Thursday,

preceding Wednesday publication. The Courier-Journal address is 114 S. Union St., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.

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