

the consecrated life



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eleased at the Vatican Dec. 17, 1991. World Vo-

To theologians and writers of religious disciplines, I address a warm invitation so that they dedicate themselves to describe in a good light, according to the Catholic tradition, the theological significance of the consecrated life.

To educators I recommend that they frequently present the great figures of consecrated life, religious and secular, that have served the church and society in various fields.

To religious families and to institutes of secular life I mention that the first and most constructive vocational pastoral work is personal witness, when it is expressed with a life full of joy in service of the Lord.

I also exhort members of institutes of contemplative life to consider that the true secret of spiritual renewal and of apostolic fruitfulness of consecrated life has its roots in their prayer. Rich is the spiritual and doctrinal patrimony which contemplatives possess, while the world seeks in that richness a response to the questions constantly raised by our age.

But most of all I address myself to the youth of today, and I say to them: "Let yourselves be seduced by the Eternal One," repeating the words of the ancient prophet: "You seduced me, Lord, ... you were too strong for me and you triumphed" (Jer 20,7).

Let yourselves be charmed by Christ, the infinite appeared in your midst in visible and imitable form. Let yourselves be attracted by his example, which has changed the history of the world and directed it toward an exultant goal. Let yourselves be loved by the love of the Holy Spirit, who wishes to turn you away from worldly things to begin in you the life of the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and true holiness (cf. Eph 4,24).

Fall in love with Jesus Christ, to live his very life, so that our world may have life in the light of the Gospel.

5. We entrust to the Virgin Mary the great cause of consecrated life. To her, Mother of Vocations, following the invitation of her words, "do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2,5), we ask:

O Virgin Mary, to you we commend our young people, in particular the youth called to closely follow your Son.

You know the difficulties, the struggles, the obstacles they must face.

Assist them to utter their "yes" to the divine call, as you did at the invitation of the Angel.

Draw them near to your heart so that they can understand with you the beauty and the joy that awaits them when the Omnipotent calls them into his intimacy, to make them witnesses of His love and make them able to inspire the church with their consecration.

O Virgin Mary, help us to rejoice with you in seeing the love brought by your Son received, guarded and returned. Obtain that we may see even in our own days the wonders of the mysterious action of the Holy Spirit.

With my blessing.

Joannes Paulus II

From the Vatican, November 1, 1991, the Solemnity of All Saints, the fourteenth year of my Pontificate.


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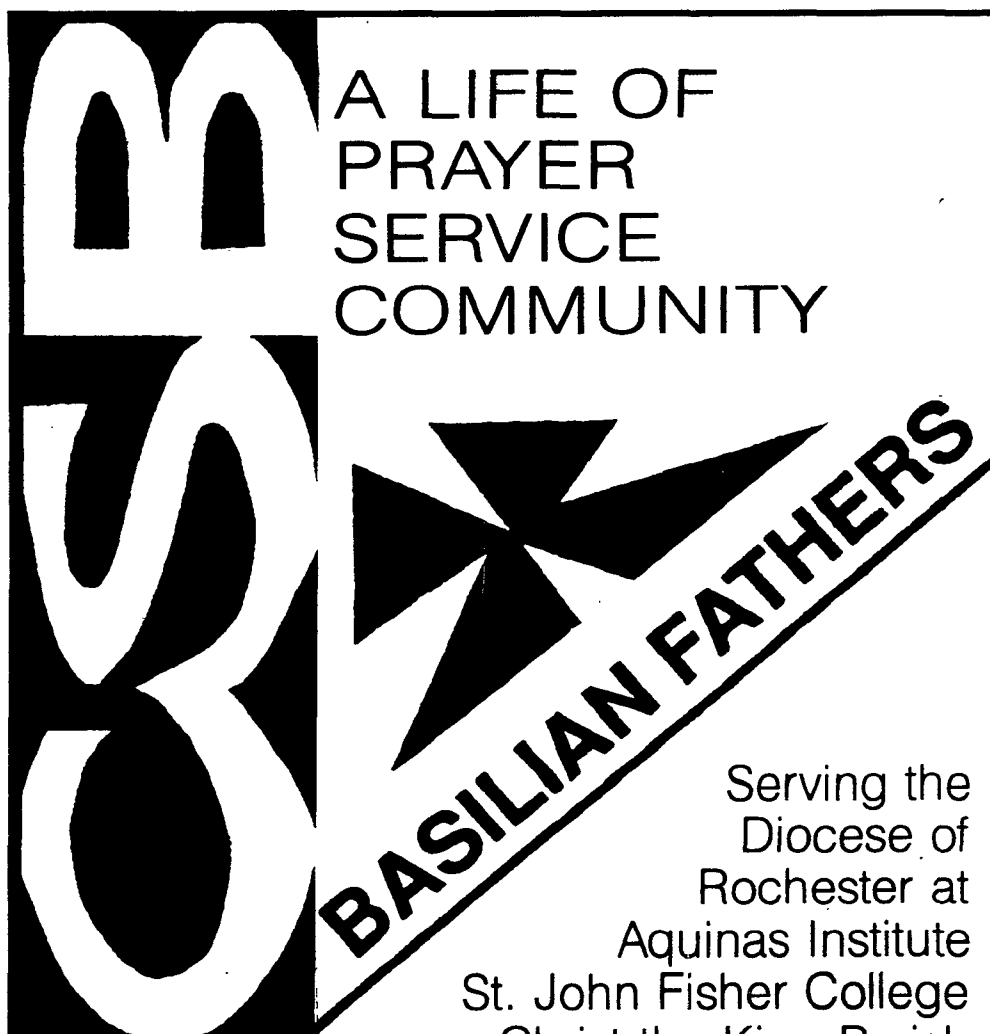
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