



YEAR OF FAITH <sup>2012</sup>/<sub>2013</sub>

LIVING  
OUR  
*Relationship*  
WITH  
JESUS CHRIST



"The holy synod holds in high esteem their way of life in chastity, poverty and obedience, a way of life of which Christ the Lord himself is the exemplar."

022013

# Vatican II | *What Difference Does it Make?*

## PERFECTAE CARITATIS

DOCUMENT: *Decree on the Up-to-Date Renewal of Religious Life*

Our Lord Jesus by his teaching and example is the font for the unfolding of religious life in the Church.

Men and women, consecrated to the Lord by the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, are a living source of the contemplative and apostolic love the Church has for the world. These religious men and women, driven by the love which the Holy Spirit poured forth in their hearts, live more and more for Christ and for His body which is the Church. And, the total giving of themselves in Christ enriches the apostolic love of the whole Church.

There is an immense variety of spiritual gifts in the religious orders of men and women. Yet, these spiritual gifts are vibrant sources of new hope as each community aims to renew itself in light of the unique spiritual gifts of its founding and wisdom of the Second Vatican Council which sought to better understand and serve the world.

Religious men and women, with ever deeper faith in Christ, devote themselves to the apostolic love which touches the people of our time and they give themselves generously to demanding tasks of the Kingdom of God.

At the heart of religious life is the common life modeled by the early Church, a common life which sees believers united in heart and soul, especially in the Eucharist and in prayer which breaks open into a life of charity. This unity of the community in charity expresses the visible pledge of Christ who will return and also it is a vital source of apostolic energy.

The Church profoundly esteems the religious who as such give themselves to the renewal of Vatican II, and the religious give themselves as a sign of the ever greater fidelity of Christ to all His holy people.

*Rev. William Wiethorn, OFM Cap*

## Reflection Questions

1. In what ways has a person from a religious order influenced you in a positive way?
2. How can you learn to live a life of apostolic love which touches others in this world?
3. In what ways do you generously share your spiritual giftedness?

## Document Quote

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