

**R**eligious life is an historical development within the grace-filled, evolutionary process of creation. This committed way of life is a mode of human response to the Creator's abiding presence and ongoing creation of the universe. Religious commit to a radical following of the impulse of God wherever they discover it. This impulse exists far ahead of limited human intentions, invites human beings to open wide the very substance of their existence, to become available partners with God's loving activity, the ever reconfiguring mystery within life. Daily contemplative practices assist religious to remain close to the Creator's impulse and to discover ways of faithful response.



Becky McKenna, CND

**W**e understand religious life today as a way of living a call to be in relationship with God in a community of vowed women who care deeply about one another, the whole human family and the entire universe. At this point in our history, we are a small community. We maintain endeavours



to continue outreach and public education. Due to the group consisting mainly of women in the second half of life, our community lives in fewer places and is in close communication with each other. As a result, great compassion for one another, openness to change and new possibilities for sharing Angela Merici's charism of the community for the future, challenge us to be prophets speaking out boldly for justice and to be mystics with humility, trust in God, a sense of wonder, grateful hearts and the joy of an inner freedom that comes from letting God lead us through time and grace.

Rose Marie Blonde, OSU

Our world is in constant evolution, therefore we could expect that religious life will also evolve. In order to serve effectively, religious life must also remain at par. The pearl of great price is to grow in our understanding of Scripture and allow Jesus to work through our hands, feet and heart. We know that we each have a place in God's heart that no one else can fill; so it is for each religious congregation.



Imbued with the spirituality and charism of our foundress, as religious we become agents of change and forgiveness in the world. That means entering into the mind and heart of Jesus so as to bring forth the reign of God, as Jesus did. Of utmost importance then is the concern of each religious to transform and to become who God wants each one to become as persons and as Congregations. Service to those in need, that is serving Jesus in the less fortunate, must become our priority as it was for our foundress.

Ann Yuhasz, SCE

**E**DUCATION calls us to expand our teaching mission to raise awareness through spirituality, passion for justice and love of beauty.

CONTEMPLATION in action invites us to desire what God desires: justice, tenderness and communion.



LIBERATION OF LIFE where we are in Manitoba, Quebec, Ontario and elsewhere calls us to share a "common ministry" to stop human trafficking and ensure the right to safe drinking water through collaboration with intergenerational, intercultural and international groups. We liberate life when we respond together to today's problems: the crisis of globalization and the need for dialogue in the Church...

Catherine Ferguson, SNJM

**A**postolic Religious Life, a radical quest for God according to the Gospel, has changed significantly in Canada in the last 60 years. Although our numbers have diminished, our members have advanced "in wisdom and age and grace." Today we recognize, as never before, our commitment to the poor, our gentle interconnectedness and deep solidarity with each other, the groaning earth and the whole cosmos. Perhaps in our diminishment, we are showing the world how to die with dignity and grace to what needs to die as we prepare to hand on our precious heritage to others in a new way.



Pauline Lally, SP



**T**he plan I have in mind for you is a future full of hope. Jer. 29



Responding to this promise, religious of today are called to be courageous and creative as we live with passion into the future. However, the future will evolve out of our past experience and wisdom into something new and exciting. Our role is to enrich the in-between time with vibrant living. We effect systemic change as we give witness to unity in a world divided by religious, ethnic, racial, tribal, economic and gender conflict.

Our willingness to stay at the table of dialogue models a process for all groups. Respect for the dignity and honour of each human being in every phase of the life journey challenges the place in society of the aged, youth, and marginalized.

Our witness to living simply with respect for the gifts of the earth confronts the rampant consumerism present today. The charism of each religious community will live on in the persons with whom we have collaborated over the many years of ministry. The wisdom of the ages will affect the future we are promised.

Marie Taylor, SSND

**F**or me, consecrated life originates in the call of the Spirit to a total gift of self to God for the sake of God's mission. It demands a radical faith, a trusting hope and an all-embracing love of all that God has created. It is characterized by attentiveness to the unfolding insights and needs of each era which today includes the insights of both theology and science and the urgent needs of justice, peace and care of earth. As Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto we collaborate with others in efforts to build right relationships and communities of active and inclusive love.



Mary Rose Marrin, CSJ

**W**e, as Sisters of St. Ann, respond to a call to follow Jesus in bringing good news to the poor. We do this as a community in the spirit of our foundress, Blessed Marie Anne Blondin. As apostolic religious our focus is to respond to those persons who are marginalized in our midst. We strive to bring to them a presence of hope and compassion. As the needs and the times change, we listen to the Spirit's guidance and direction so that we can respond faithfully to God's invitations locally and globally.

Joyce Harris, SSA  
Judi Morin, SSA  
Patricia Donovan, SSA





**T**he Society of the Sacred Heart is an international congregation of some 2,700 women in 42 different countries of the world. Sharing the spirit of St Madeleine Sophie Barat, we are united in our mission: to deepen our understanding of God's love and to discover and reveal that love to the world through service with the hearts of educators.

Religious of the Sacred Heart (RSCJ), share life together in small communities and seek, through prayer and contemplation, to be drawn ever more deeply into the Heart of God. United to God's Heart we are challenged to make choices for justice in response to the Gospel and the needs of the world.

In gratitude for the beautiful work that CRC has been doing all these 60 years for the Church and the world,

Mary Pat White, RSCJ

**O**ur vision of religious life is based on our belief in God's evolving design in our lives and in the universe.

We have come to a growing awareness of our interconnectedness with other congregations, with the human Community, and with all of creation. We have seen our ministry change to greater collaboration and mutual enrichment. A spirit of inclusiveness and presence to others is vital.

The essence of our ministry is a prophetic one as we continue to promote justice and the dignity of all.

Our common desire is to live the rich dimension of the contemplative aspect of our lives and to give witness to the Gospel values of compassion, service, simplicity and joy.

Rita Stang, SMS