

GUIDE FOR FACILITATING A VIRTUAL CELEBRATION

For use with the video produced by the Canadian Religious Conference

Watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HlpVWkU8X9Y>

Presentation

The World Day for Consecrated Life marks its 25th anniversary in 2021. Many celebrations will no doubt take on virtual means in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the world, populations are still experiencing lockdowns and difficult situations. Religious communities and institutes share in these ordeals of isolation, sickness and grief. Many have also had to take the precaution to stop usual Eucharistic gatherings or even communal prayer, resorting to virtual liturgies or prayer times.

In this context, the Canadian Religious Conference is happy to offer a video to support the celebration of consecrated life on February 2nd. The video features songs in English, French and Latin, accompanied by a harpist, to enrich your time of prayer. The video also features moments of transition allowing for interaction within your community or group, allowing you to pause the video and proclaim the readings of the liturgy, and to name the members of your community who passed during the last months. Finally, the video includes a few clips featuring messages of encouragement and hope by consecrated persons. Note that the video alternates between French and English and is subtitled. This is meant as an expression of unity in our Canadian coast-to-coast religious network.

Suggested use

- Share the video link with members of your community, on your website and social media;
- Use the video in an in-person gathering of your community (if your situation allows);
- Watch the video in a virtual gathering of your community (see technical tips on p. 2);
- Suggest the video to your diocese for the World Day for Consecrated Life.

Important: The person facilitating the online gathering might want to do a test meeting and run-through with at least another person, to practice screen sharing and to ensure the video's sound can be heard. You could also have one facilitator and one person for technical support.

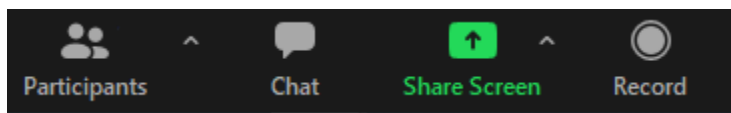
Technical tips to share the video in a virtual meeting

These tips are relevant to Zoom, for use on a computer. The process should be similar with programs like Skype, Google Meet, etc. Be sure to do a test before your meeting.

- Open the [link of the video](#) in your computer's browser (Google Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari, etc.). Press pause right at the beginning of the video. Keep this window open. Activate the subtitles in the video to have the French content translated into English. To activate subtitles, click the subtitle icon in the YouTube video toolbar as shown below.

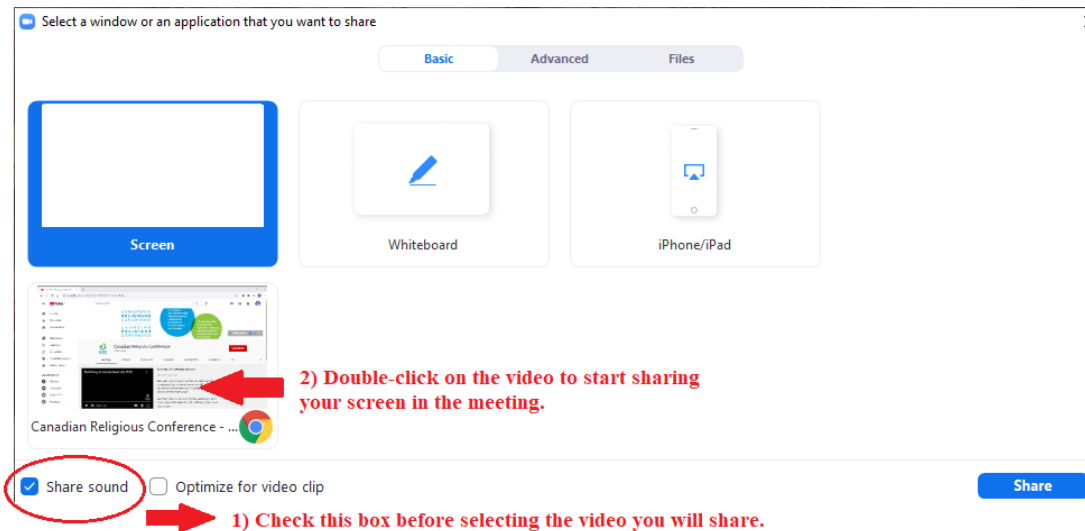


- Start your Zoom meeting.
- When you are ready to start sharing the video in your meeting, click on the green icon "Share Screen" at the bottom of the Zoom window.



- A pop-up window will open and show you the sharing options. You will see the CRC video in a window.

- BEFORE clicking on the video, be sure to check the box at the bottom left **Share sound**. This is necessary for other members in your meetings to hear the sound of the video (see figure 1 in the below image).
- Next, double-click on the video to start sharing (see figure 2 in the below image).



- Your screen is now shared with everyone, and you can click “Play” to start the video, or pause it as needed throughout your meeting.

PREPARING THE CELEBRATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE PRIOR TO THE CELEBRATION

We suggest that the person who will facilitate the gathering take some time to watch the CRC video in advance, and to spot the moments where the video will prompt a pause, in order to allow for proclaiming the Word or sharing and prayer times. These moments of transition are indicated in the video and in this guide.

Additionally, it can be easier to have one person facilitate the gathering, while another takes care of the technical aspects like screen sharing and pausing the video.

Scripture and prayers

- Choose the readings you plan to proclaim (from the February 2nd liturgy or others) and prayers or reflections (one or two) for the circumstances.
- Designate people to proclaim the readings and recite the prayers.

- The video includes Prayers of the Faithful, read in English and French, with subtitles. You may add personal petitions as prompted in the guide.
- The video includes a bilingual psalm of thanksgiving with a Taizé song as a response.
- The video features moments of transition where you will be prompted to pause the video, stop sharing the screen (if you are gathering online) and allow your designated members to proclaim the readings and recite the prayers.

Remembering our departed sisters and brothers

- The video includes a moment to remember those in your community who passed during the pandemic, or any other person you wish to commemorate. If you so desire, you may prepare a list of names in advance and ask someone to read them at the relevant moment during the video.

Materials to prepare

- Choose the Scripture readings (from the February 2nd liturgy or others) and prayers (of your foundress or founder, for example) you wish to include in the celebration. Send the references or texts to the people designated for the readings.
- You do not need to print song lyrics: they are included in the video.
- If you are gathering online, encourage members to prepare a candle, an icon and a Bible, for example, and to join the meeting from a quiet room.
- Prepare an invitation to your virtual celebration, including the meeting link and schedule.

STRUCTURE OF THE CELEBRATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE FACILITATION GUIDE FOR USE WITH THE VIDEO

If you are using the video within a community gathering (online or in-person), the facilitator can say a word of welcome and explain how the video will be used to support singing, prayer and reflection.

Structure of the video and indications for facilitation

- 1. Opening song:** *Ubi Caritas* (Maurice Duruflé)
- 2. Welcome message:** Sister Francine Landreville, CND, President of the CRC
- 3. Meditative song:** *El Senyor* (Taizé, bilingual version)

TRANSITION

After the song, the video will prompt you to pause for the first reading. You can pause the video (and stop sharing your screen if you are meeting online). Invite the designated person to proclaim the chosen reading.

- 4. Reading:** From the book of Malachi 3:1-4 OR Hebrews 2:14-18
(February 2nd liturgy)
You may choose another reading if so desired.

Following the reading, resume sharing your screen and play the video where you left off.

- 5. Thanksgiving:** *Confitemini Domino* (Taizé)
The singers in the video proclaim Psalm 138: 1-8, alternating between English and French (with subtitles) and the sung response.

N.B.: the February 2nd liturgy includes Psalm 24:7-10. If you prefer to use this psalm, then skip this part of the video and read Ps 24 in your group.

- 6. Reflection:** Testimony of a consecrated person (1-2 minutes)

A consecrated person shares a message of thanksgiving for this life of mission, amidst the current challenges (Florent Gaudreault, FÉC).

TRANSITION

Following this testimony, pause the video (and stop sharing your screen). Invite those present to say a few words of thanksgiving. They can turn on their microphone to do so or even write in the “Chat” window online.

After this moment, resume sharing your screen and play the video where you left off.

- 7. Acclamation:** *Chante alléluia, Sing Hallelujah*

- 8. Proclamation of the Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40 (or verses 22-32)

TRANSITION

After the acclamation, the video will prompt you to pause for the reading. Pause the video (and stop sharing your screen). You may now invite the person chosen to read the Gospel to do so (according to the February 2nd liturgy or another option you may have chosen).

After the proclamation, resume sharing your screen and play the video.

- 9. Reflection:** Testimony of a consecrated person (1-2 minutes)

A consecrated person expresses what this celebration represents for her (Elaine Baete, SGM).

TRANSITION

Following this testimony, pause the video (and stop sharing your screen). You may ask a sister or brother to share a short reflection about consecrated life, its joys and challenges, etc.

After this, explain that the next part of the video will include Prayers of the Faithful with a sung response. Invite those present to share their own petitions at this time (before resuming the video) or to write them in the “Chat” window.

After this indication, resume sharing your screen and play the video where you left off.

10. Prayers of the Faithful: *Misericordias Domini* (Taizé)

The song alternates with recited prayers by the singers.

11. Remembering our departed sisters and brothers

The video will prompt you to pause for this moment of remembrance. If you have prepared a list of names of deceased persons to read, then stop sharing your screen and invite the designated person to read the names. You may also invite people to spontaneously name any deceased they wish to pray for.

After reading the names, explain that the next part of the video features a meditative song (in French, with subtitles), reminding us that no matter the challenges and the grief, our Lord Jesus Christ triumphs over death.

After this moment, resume sharing your screen and play the video where you left off.

Song: Quand tu verras (Robert Lebel)

12. Final blessing by sister Francine Landreville, CND

13. Song of blessing *May the Road Rise to Meet You* (Lori True)

CONCLUSION

The traditional Irish blessing concludes the video. You may now stop the video. The facilitator can say some parting words, and/or ask for some comments from those present.

When the gathering is over, the facilitator ends the online meeting.

COMMENTS

If you used this video as part of your community’s celebrations for the World Day for Consecrated Life, the CRC would gladly welcome your feedback. Write to us:

mission@crc-canada.org