



Issue No. 38



Newsletter

February 2023



The season of 'Lent' is a season of hope. The word "Lent" derives from the middle English word "Lenten", meaning springtime - the time of lengthening days. A season that brings forth newness, liveliness, new birth, brightness with the appearance of daffodils and all that nature affords us as the dark days of winter fade away.

There are three main pillars of Lent:

Prayer: *This has to do with our relationship with God. Giving of quality time to develop our relationship with God and remain connected to the God who is in relationship with each and every created thing in the universe.*

Fasting: *Fasting is a way to humble yourself in the sight of God. Psalm 35:13. There are different types of fasting, fasting from laziness, idleness and idle talks, bullying, disrespect and the likes.*

Almsgiving: *One who is gracious to the poor lends to the Lord, and the Lord will repay the person for the good deed. Proverbs 19:17. This could also include a demonstration of good neighbourliness; giving up time to be with the lonely, the sick, giving a listening eye, a smile, a helping hand*

These three pillars of Lent call us to be with Christ with the hope of a renewal of relationship with Christ, self and humanity in different ways that would reflect good choices. "To deepen our knowledge of the Master, to fully understand and embrace the mystery of his salvation, accomplished in total self-giving inspired by love, we must allow ourselves to be taken aside by him and to detach ourselves from mediocrity and vanity" Pope Francis

The words of St. Jerome are very much related to what the season of Lent invites us to when he said "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better best." This beautiful season of Lent, affords us the opportunity to reflect how good the journey has been, how better it could be, and how best it can become to the glory of God in union with humanity.



Sr Mary Usífh OLA

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VOCATIONS IRELAND SPRING CONFERENCE



Our Spring conference which was held on 1st February in Mount St Anne's Conference and Retreat Centre was a great success. It was so good to see everyone in person once again. The theme was *'Crossing a Threshold to New Life: The Call to be Pioneers once again'*. The main speaker was Sr Lynn Levo CSJ PhD who joined us on zoom. Sr Lynn's video has been sent out to all participants at the conference. It will also be available on the members only section of our website.

The new number for the members only section is currently being sent out with the receipt from the subscriptions as they come in.

This section will be a resource section where we will upload any future video's, interesting articles and booking forms for webinars , conferences etc.

The good news is that I have now settled the date with Sr Lynn for her workshop on "Understanding, Assessing and fostering psychosexual integration" which will be held in Mount St Anne's from the 19th-24th September so please save the date. A flyer will be sent out shortly with full details for the workshop.

Thank you to the staff of Mount St Annes and also Carolanne Henry who facilitated the day.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CYMFed – Catholic Youth Ministry of England and Wales are hosting FLAME 2023 – the largest Catholic gathering of young people. Some members of Vocations Ireland will be attending so we hope to have an update from them for our next newsletter.

Vocations Chat

- > meet sisters, brothers, priest
- > ask ???
- > ALL WELCOME!

Thurs, 2 March, 2-3pm
@ Interfaith Centre DCU

The graphic is a dark blue square with yellow icons of question marks and coffee mugs. A horizontal line separates the title from the list of activities.

We are having our first Vocations Chat in the Interfaith Centre DCU on Thursday 2nd March from 2-3p.m. Please pray for its success. Sr Eileen O’Connell OP is coordinating this. We would like to have a coordinator for the various Third Level Institutes around the country where we might hold similar events. If you are interested in coordinating such an event Margaret will work with you. Please send your Name and which Third Level Institute you would be willing to coordinate to vocationsireland1@gmail.com



We are currently planning to launch our own special 'Year of Vocation' so watch out for some exciting details very soon
As part of our Year of vocation initiative I am looking for volunteers for the following please.

1. Names of those interested in forming a panel for participation in **Vocation Days online with Secondary schools**. We will be coordinating this from the office but need names and emails from those interested so we can send out possible dates to you of when they will take place. Meanwhile we are in the process of contacting some schools who might be interested in taking part. This will be via zoom.
2. We are looking for volunteers to do a 2 min video on their phone about your own **Vocation Story**.
3. On the First Tuesday evening of each month we will host short **Vocation Interviews** on YouTube. We plan to interview different Brothers, Sisters, Priests, Missionaries, Lay people
4. If any Congregation is willing to host a **Vocation Prayer afternoon/evening** in one of their communities and record it, we would be happy to upload this on the first Sunday of each month during the year of Vocation. Please let me know if you would like to do this or if you have other ideas.



We are currently planning an online Webinar for any Congregation who might be interested in employing a lay Vocation Director or Promotor.

The webinar will talk about the pro's and con's, job descriptions, remuneration, advertising and interviewing.

Further details will be available in the next newsletter.



NET MINISTRIES
I R E L A N D

Tony Foy, the Executive Director of Net Ministries Ireland has contacted us to let you know that there are lay mission teams available from September to work with any congregation who is interested.

They have reduced their price from 40,000 to 30,000 for religious congregations.

Tony can be contacted directly on 0862239757 if you wish to discuss this further.



COMMUNICATORS FOR WOMEN RELIGIOUS
Advancing the Mission of Catholic Sisters

We're excited to announce that ***the annual CWR Ireland Conference is taking place on Saturday 22 April 2023 in the Aisling Hotel, Dublin.***

We are even more excited that this year's conference will be an in-person event.

Formal invitations with all the details will go out shortly. In the meanwhile, be sure to mark this date in your diary.

Looking forward to seeing you on 22 April.

Kind regards,

CWR Ireland



AMRI website is highlighting some suggestions for celebrating Lent.

<https://www.amri.ie>

Also on the AMRI site you will find lots more information on various topics, especially details about **World Youth Day** -an invitation for Young Religious. If you know of someone in your Congregation or Religious Order or people working with young people who would be interested in travelling to World Youth Day in Lisbon this August, feel free to get them to register their interest by filling out the booking form.

<https://forms.gle/Pjv6GHFHMdE3sL6g9>

For more information email Gerard Gallagher communications@amri.ie or Margaret Cartwright vocations@amri.ie

Newsletter



If you have anything for our next newsletter please send to

awhelan@congregation.bonsecours.ie

before 1st May