



## Consecrated Secularity in Vatican II and in “Vita Consecrata”

The origin of modern secular institutes goes back to St. Angela Merici (XVI). It has taken shape and depth in the nineteenth century and developed in the twentieth century. Pius XII promulgated its legal status in the Church in *Provida Mater Ecclesia* (1947) and *Primo Feliciter* (1948).

The Second Vatican Council dedicated art 11 of *Perfectae Caritatis* to Secular Institutes. Paul VI, prophet of an extrovert Church that looks far and takes care of the poor, helped to develop its theology and spirituality during his pontificate. Since the mid-twentieth century, there have been many more in-depth congresses.

John Paul II, in *Vita Consecrata* 10, summarized in an admirable way its identity and mission in today's world. These two texts, that of the Council and that of John Paul II, bring us closer to this extraordinary reality called the ‘Secular Institutes’ in the Church today.

### *Perfectae caritatis, 11.*

Secular Institutes are not religious communities but they carry with them in the world a profession of the evangelical counsels which is genuine and complete, and recognized as such by the Church. This profession confers a consecration on men and women, laity and clergy, who reside in the world. For this reason they should chiefly strive for total self dedication to God, one inspired by perfect charity. These Institutes should preserve their proper and particular character, a secular one, so that they may everywhere measure up successfully to that apostolate which they were designed to exercise, and which is both in the world and, in a sense, of the world

Yet they should surely realize that they cannot acquit themselves of so immense a task unless their members are skilfully trained in matters both human and divine, and can thus be a genuine leaven in the world for strengthening and enlarging the body of Christ.

### *Vita consecrata, 10*

The Holy Spirit, who wondrously fashions the variety of charisms, has given rise in our time to *new expressions of consecrated life*, which appear as a providential response to the new needs encountered by the Church today as she carries out her mission in the world.

One thinks in the first place of members of *Secular Institutes* seeking to *live out their consecration to God in the world* through the profession of the evangelical counsels in the midst of temporal realities; they wish in this way to be a leaven of wisdom and a witness of grace within cultural, economic and political life. Through their own specific blending of presence in the world and consecration, they seek to *make present in society the newness and power of Christ's Kingdom*, striving to transfigure the world from within by the power of the Beatitudes. In this way, while they belong completely to God and are thus fully consecrated to his service, their activity in the ordinary life of the world contributes, by the power of the Spirit, to shedding the light of the Gospel on temporal realities. Secular Institutes, each in accordance with its specific nature, thus help to ensure that the Church has an effective presence in society.



## **Prayer of the 25 anniversary**

**We praise and bless you, Father:  
in your Providence  
since the creation of the world  
you called wise and generous men,  
ready to follow you along the paths of  
history to be light,  
salt and new yeast in the world.**

**We praise and bless you, Lord Jesus Christ,  
that with your life hidden in Nazareth  
you have become a model for those who,  
remaining in the world,  
travel the path of evangelical radicality.**

**We praise and bless you, Holy Spirit,  
because you fill the Church with your gifts,  
and in particular  
the gift of the Salesian charism:  
it is in the great Salesian Family that we,  
Volunteers With Don Bosco,  
make our contribution for the construction  
of your Kingdom in the world.**

**We praise and bless you, Holy Trinity,  
for the 25 years of our history:  
true to your call,  
we commit ourselves to live  
as authentic witnesses to the Gospel  
as secular Salesian consecrated persons.**

**Mary, Mother and Help of Christians,  
St. Joseph and St. John Bosco,  
be for us a sure support and help  
us be a bridge amid the needs  
of everyday life  
and those in the history of salvation.  
Amen**

## **SCS INFO**

### **VIII General Assembly of the VDB**

General Assemblies are, for VDB, the equivalent of General Chapters. The General Assembly is prepared by the regional assemblies. The GA reflects on a basic theme for the life of the Institute. The General Leader presents a report on the state of the Institute followed by the election of the General Leader and the members of her Central Council. The theme of the GA8 is "The world knocks at our heart: Give me a drink. The mission of the VDB today". It will be held from 18 to 28 July 2019. The VDBs will be happy and grateful for the prayer accompany them.

### **Celebration of the 25th anniversary of the CDBs**

On 12th September 2019 CDBs will be 25 years old. In addition to the local celebrations, the Institute will solemnly celebrate the event on 21st September 2019 in Rome, together with the Rector Major. They will be accompanied by the Salesians and other members of the Salesian Family who have guided them in a special way during these years. Our heartfelt wishes to them.

### **Salesian Consecrated Secularity in the SDB Provinces**

During these years, a programme of reflection on the Salesian Consecrated Secularity in the SDB Provinces is being carried out. The programme consists in reflecting on the consecrated secularity in the Church, on the identity and mission of the VDB and the CDB, and on the ways in integrate the dimension of the Salesian consecrated secularity into ordinary pastoral action. Various initiatives have been carried out in Spain and India. Similar programmes are being prepared in Croatia, Portugal and in various Italian Provinces. It is an initiative that is worth extending to other Provinces.

### **Nino Baglieri (CDB) and Maria Saladino (VDB) on their way to the Altars**

"Let us unite the holiness of life with the holiness of action", repeated Don Rinaldi to the first VDBs. "We live in the heart of the world as our place of sanctification", says the Constitutions of the CDB. This is how Nino Baglieri (CDB) and Maria Saladino (VDB) lived, whose diocesan process of the cause of beatification is being carried out in their respective dioceses. In the same way, hundreds of secular consecrated persons are called to live the Salesian spirituality in depth. It gives us reason to thank God for them and imitate their love for the Lord and for neighbour.