

Celebration of World Day for Consecrated Life, 2021

On Tuesday evening of February 2nd, members of Consecrated Life in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis lit candles in their homes and gathered via Zoom, with their archbishop, to pray the *Holden Evening Prayer*.

The music was pre-recorded, but participants were encouraged to join in song, while remaining muted.

More than 100 from all parts of the archdiocese participated on Zoom with an additional 25 on closed circuit TV.

While not able to be together in person, the participants were able to interact with one another in chat groups. They reflected and shared on a question posed to them by Greg Darr, Vocation Minister for the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, who shared a reflection as a part of the prayer:

Mary's Magnificat begins, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord..." In what tangible ways have you seen the "greatness of the Lord" proclaimed or experienced in our day, particularly through the witness of consecrated life? (In other words, in an era marked by challenges -- the pandemic, economic hardship, racial injustice and climate change among them -- what light in the darkness do you perceive?)

At the end of the prayer service, all were encouraged to unmute and share a noisy, heartfelt greeting of peace with one another. The men and women remained for a long time on Zoom, visiting with one another and relishing an opportunity to connect during this pandemic time.

It was not the same as being together in person, of course, but Zoom enables those who have difficulty traveling and a wider group of others to participate. The response to the evening was very positive.



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