



# Wake Up the World

Year of Consecrated Life

## Celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life

Marist Brothers' Province of Australia

November, 2014 to February, 2016

### WHAT IS THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE ALL ABOUT?

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Pope Francis has announced that 2015 will be a year dedicated to the promotion of consecrated life, and is asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to "wake up the world" with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope.

The Year of Consecrated Life (YCL) officially begins on 30th November 2014, the first Sunday of Advent, and will conclude on February 2nd 2016, the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and the World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life. During these 14 months, celebrations and diverse meetings will take place with the objective of highlighting the various dimensions of consecrated life.

The YCL presents our province with a unique opportunity of highlighting the vocation of the consecrated life and promoting a greater awareness of our particular way of living the gospel and the Marist charism, as religious brothers.

Let us pray that this special year will indeed be a time of renewal, ever deeper commitment and witness, thanksgiving and a new life for religious men and women, and that our younger people feel called to 'be courageous', to dare and discern a religious vocation and a life lived fully for Christ, in the service of the world. It's time to 'wake up the world' with our lives!

### PURPOSE

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There are four specific purposes to the year:

- ❖ **Renewal** for men and women in consecrated life,
- ❖ **Thanksgiving** for the service of sisters, brothers, priests
- ❖ **Promoting** a greater awareness of the consecrated life,
- ❖ **Invitation** to young Catholics to consider a religious vocation.

## PROVINCE OF AUSTRALIA - PROPOSED STRATEGIES

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### BROTHERS' COMMUNITIES

- ❖ Each Community will be invited to 'sponsor' a novice or temporary professed and pray for that young man. During Advent, Communities will receive a prayer card with details about their young brother and will be asked to pray the prayer once a week on a set day.
- ❖ A monthly prayer reflection will be distributed for use in communities, bringing together various sources on consecrated life, together with personal reflections from brothers.

### MARIST ASSOCIATION

- ❖ **Develop themes** around consecrated life and 'Just Love' theme for 2015. Discuss resources with the Marist Life Formation (MLF) Team.
- ❖ Vocations team and other brothers will be available/invited to various local **Marist Association groups** to offer presentations. Pope Francis' vision for religious men and women in today's church and our world.

### MARIST SCHOOLS AUSTRALIA

- ❖ **Morning prayer** sheet for staff (primary and secondary).
- ❖ **Assembly prayer** for schools (secondary) for Vocations Week.
- ❖ **Presentations** (ongoing) by MVT with Year 6, 7, 11 and 12 with a special feature on consecrated life.
- ❖ **Posters** of Religious men and women featuring the YCL '*Wake Up the World*'.
- ❖ **Posters** of brothers from Australia and around the world with slogan '*We Are Brothers*' in many languages.
- ❖ **Video-clips** of brothers interviewed on Marist life and mission.
- ❖ **Sponsor Novices and Temporary Professed**  
Marcellin College Bulleen – Jack O'Sullivan  
Marist College Ashgrove – James Hodge  
Marist College Eastwood – Sam Amos  
Newman College Perth – Br Patrick Connell
- ❖ **Year 12 Marist Forum** – Theme of Vocation

## YOUNG ADULT EVENTS

- ❖ **Evening Taize prayer** for Young Marists in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth with a focus on consecrated life. Follow up invitation to Vocation Dinner and Discernment weekend.
- ❖ **Vocations Dinners** for senior boys (selected) and young men in regions. Hosted by the MVT with support of Regional MYM Team. 6-8 senior boys from each school invited to attend with Campus/Youth Minister. Prayer and a keynote at each event, with invitation to Vocation Dinner and Discernment weekend.

Brisbane:	Ashgrove, Mt Maria, Trinity Beenleigh + Young Adults
Sydney 1:	Hunters Hill, Eastwood, Dundas, Parramatta, Auburn + Young Men
Sydney 2:	North Shore, Randwick, Kogarah, Pagewood + Young Men
Sydney 3:	Campbelltown, Rosemeadow, Varroville + Young Men
Canberra:	Canberra + Young Men
Melbourne:	Bulleen, Kilmore, Broadmeadows, Marymead, Beaconsfield + Young Men
Regional VIC:	Sale, Traralgon, Warragul + Young Men
Other:	Wodonga, Shepparton, Bendigo

- ❖ **Immersion Experience:** For 6-8 young men to Timor Leste Date: July, 2015 or November/December 2015.
- ❖ **Hermitage Ministry experience:** Invitation to a group of ex-students/young adults to have some days of ministry, community and prayer around the Hermitage property.

## MULTI-MEDIA

- ❖ **Facebook and Website:** – ongoing reflections and quotes and uploads on consecrated life.
- ❖ **Video-clips** of brothers interviewed on Marist life and mission.
- ❖ **PowerPoint presentation** on Brothers in ministry with quotes about consecrated life or Marist constitutions.

## OTHER SUGGESTIONS

- ❖ **Open House Day:** 'Come and See a Brothers' Community!' For local schools and parishes, including a tour with a multi-media presentation on religious communities throughout history.
- ❖ **Day of Mission and Service with Religious.** Events will include joining Brothers in their ministries or special service projects (to be arranged).
- ❖ **Day of Prayer with Religious.** Events will include prayer, adoration, services in religious houses, parishes, and churches.
- ❖ **Prayer Link with Brothers around the world**  
Possible community linkup with an international community (e.g. Pacific etc. and a discussion around prayer and consecrated life).

*“Dear brothers and sisters, with great humility, do all that you can to show that **the consecrated life is a precious gift to the Church and to the world.** Do not keep it to yourselves; share it, bringing Christ to every corner of [your] beloved country. Let your joy continue to find expression in your efforts to attract and nurture vocations, and recognize that all of you have some part in forming **the consecrated men and women of tomorrow.**”*

*Pope Francis, August 16, 2014  
Speaking to 5,000 Men and Women  
in Consecrated Life, South Korea.*





### **CATHOLIC RELIGIOUS AUSTRALIA WELCOMES THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE LOGO**

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) proudly unveils a logo to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life, which begins on the 29th of November, the first weekend of Advent.

The logo reflects Pope Francis' exhortation for religious women and men to awaken the world in a spirit of joy and hope when he announced the year 2015 to be dedicated to consecrated life. The celebration culminates on the World Day of Consecrated Life, the 2nd of February 2016.

"The logo depicts the CRA cross and shows the region of Australia, Oceania and Asia where many of Religious associated with CRA minister to the marginalised," said CRA Director Sister Leone Wittmack rsc. "The green colour conveys hope to the world and other features of the logo demonstrate the vitality of mission and religious life in Australia today."

The logo draws upon the light of God's love that strengthens religious sisters, priests and brothers in their commitment to justice, with the image inviting the viewer to join them in changing the world.

"As we begin to celebrate this year dedicated to religious women and men throughout the world, may we embrace the call from Pope Francis to 'Wake up the World' by walking with people experiencing poverty and being advocates for those who have no voice," said CRA President Sister Berenice Loch rsm .

The logo comes in square and rectangle layouts and a variety of digital formats for ease of use. In addition, CRA also introduces a new section in its website offering news updates, reflections and prayers for the Year of Consecrated Life from Australian religious and overseas sources.

Catholic Religious Australia (CRA) is the peak body for leaders of Religious Institutes and Societies of Apostolic Life resident in Australia. Our membership comprises more than 180 congregations of Sisters, Brothers and Religious Priests living and working in all states and territories. *Find out more at [www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au](http://www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org.au).*

## VATICAN RELEASE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE LOGO

*Consecrated Life in today's Church: Gospel, Prophecy, Hope.  
Presentation of the Logo for the 'Year of Consecrated Life'*



### **The Logo**

*A dove supports on one wing a polyhedral globe, and while resting on the water, it safeguards with the other wing three stars that arise from the water.*

The *Logo* for the *Year of Consecrated Life* expresses through symbols the fundamental values of consecrated life. In it we recognize the “unceasing work of the Holy Spirit, who in every age shows forth the richness of the practice of the evangelical counsels through a multiplicity of charisms. In this way too he makes ever present in the Church and in the world, in time and space, the mystery of Christ” (VC 5).

In the lines that outline the form of the dove one can intuit the word ‘*Peace*’ in Arabic: this is a reminder that consecrated life is called to be the model for universal reconciliation in Christ.

### **The symbols of the Logo**

#### *The dove on the water*

The *dove* is the classical symbol of the action of the Holy Spirit, who is the source of life and the inspirer of creativity. This is a flash-back to the origin of history: in the beginning the Spirit of God moved on the waters (cf *Gen* 1,2). The dove, gliding above a sea swollen with yet unexpressed life, symbolizes a patient and hope-filled fecundity, while the symbols around it reveal the creative and renewing action of the Spirit. The dove also evokes the consecration of the humanity of Christ through baptism.

The *waters* are made of mosaic fragments; they indicate the complexity and the harmony of the human and cosmic elements that are made to “groan” by the Spirit according to God’s mysterious plans (cf *Rom* 8, 26-27) so that they may converge into the hospitable and fruitful encounter that leads to a new creation. The dove flies among the waves of history, above the waters of the deluge (cf *Gen* 8, 8-14). The men and women, whose consecration was marked by the Gospel, have always been pilgrims among the nations; they live their various charismatic and diaconal presence like “good administrators of the multiform grace

of God” (IPt 4,10); they are marked by the Cross of Christ, even unto martyrdom; they journey through history equipped with the wisdom of the Gospel; indeed, a Church that embraces and heals all that is human in Christ.

### *The three stars*

These stand for the identity of consecrated life as *confessio Trinitatis, signum fraternitatis eservitium caritatis*. They express the circular relationships found in the Trinitarian love, which consecrated life is called to live daily in the world. The stars also hint to the triple halo used in the Byzantine iconography to honour Mary, the Mother of God, the first Disciple of Christ and model and patron of every consecrated life.

### *The polyhedral globe*

The small polyhedral globe symbolizes the planet with its myriad variety of nations and cultures, as explained by Pope Francis (cf EG 236). It is the breath of the Spirit that sustains it and leads it towards the future: an invitation to all consecrated persons “to become bearers of the Spirit (*pneumatophoroi*), authentically spiritual men and women, capable of endowing history with hidden fruitfulness” (VC 6).

### **The Headword**

#### *Vita consecrata in Ecclesia hodie Evangelium, Prophetia, Spes*

(Consecrated life in today’s Church Gospel, Prophecy, Hope.)

The headword provides a further highlighting of the identity and prospective, experience and ideals, grace and journey that consecrated life has lived through and is still living within the Church as people of God, as it journeys together with the different nations and cultures toward the future.

***Evangelium***: this indicates the fundamental rule of consecrated life, which is the “*sequela Christi* as taught by the Gospel” (PC 2a). First of all as “a living memorial of Jesus' way of living and acting” (VC 22), and then as vital wisdom in the light of the multiple counsels that the Lord gave to his disciples (cf LG 42). The Gospel shows the way ahead and is a source of joy (EG 1).

***Prophetia***: reminds us of the prophetic character of consecrated life, which “takes the shape of a special form of sharing in Christ's prophetic office, which the Holy Spirit communicates to the whole People of God” (VC 84). This is an authentic prophetic ministry that is born from the Word and is nourished by the Word of God when this is welcomed and lived out in the various circumstances of life. This function is carried out through courageous denunciation and in announcing new ‘visits’ by God; also, “through the exploration of new ways to apply the Gospel in history, in expectation of the coming of God's Kingdom” (*ibid.*).

***Spes***: reminds us of the ultimate fulfilment of the Christian mystery. We are living through an era that is characterized by widespread uncertainties and a lack of projects with a long-term vision: *hope* is needed in a context of cultural and social fragility, at a time when the horizon is dark because “it often seems that the signs of God's presence have been lost from sight” (VC 85). Consecrated life is permanently projected toward the eschatology: it witnesses that every hope will eventually have its definite fulfilment, and transforms the waiting “in work and mission, that the Kingdom may become present here and now” (VC27). As a sign of hope consecrated life needs to be close to people and to show mercy; to be a paradigm of a future free from all kinds of idolatry.

“*Encouraged by the charity that the Holy Spirit pours in our hearts*” (Rm 5,5) the consecrated persons are therefore called to embrace the universe and to become a memorial of the Trinitarian love, catalysts of communion and unity, praying sentries on the peak of history, and to become one with humanity in its anxieties and in its silent search for the Spirit.