

Message from Archbishop Christian Lépine on the Occasion of the XXIXth World Day for Consecrated Life in the Jubilee Year 2025



Dear Sisters and Brothers of Consecrated Life,

In this Jubilee Year, as we celebrate the XXIXth World Day for Consecrated Life, I address each of you with deep gratitude. This day, which coincides with the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, offers us a moment to honor all those who, through their unwavering commitment, have enriched the Church's mission and our Archdiocese with the diversity and beauty of their charisms.

As we reflect on our metropolis, we recognize the invaluable legacy of consecrated men and women who, over decades, have tirelessly built communities of faith, love, and solidarity. Your dedication and passion have sown—and continue to sow—the seeds of hope in people's hearts. As Pope Francis reminds us in his 2014 letter to consecrated persons, we are called to "look to the past with gratitude."

Today, religious congregations, Institutes of Consecrated Life, and Societies of Apostolic Life face significant challenges, including aging members and the decline or absence of new vocations. These realities prompt difficult questions about the sustainability of their activities and missions. Yet, despite these obstacles, many consecrated individuals remain actively engaged in charitable works, supporting our diocesan Church and society while addressing contemporary ecclesial and social issues.

While the challenges are real, pathways of hope and renewal are emerging, often in collaboration with committed laypeople, associates, and new vocations. It is essential that we keep alive the flame of hope kindled in us at baptism, and do all we can to foster the strength and confidence to look toward the future with open hearts and minds. As the theme of this Jubilee Year reminds us, let us be "Pilgrims of Hope, on the Road to Peace," placing our trust in God and continuing our mission under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

I want to honor in a special way the wisdom and courage of our senior brothers and sisters, who, through their suffering and prayer, offer their lives to God. Your commitment, daily sacrifices, and spirit of prayer enrich our Church

and serve as a powerful testament to the strength of faith, fidelity, and love. Thank you for your enduring witness and for reminding us that even moments of suffering can become precious offerings in the hands of the Lord.

Together, let us persevere in the mission, praying that the charisms entrusted to your founders and foundresses continue to bear fruit in our Church and society. May new generations draw inspiration from your extraordinary heritage, discovering purpose and meaning in their lives.

In this spirit of hope, I warmly invite you to our annual celebration of consecrated life on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at 10 a.m., at the Cathedral of Mary Queen of the World.

May God's grace accompany you each day of this new year, and may you find joy and peace in your vocation.

Happy Jubilee to all!

With all my affection in Jesus Christ and in communion of prayer, May Mary guard and protect your heart!

† Christian Lépine
Archbishop of Montreal

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christian Lépine". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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