

# Religious men and women a 'firm foundation' for Baltimore Archdiocese

BAYNESVILLE - As a young girl in Illinois, Sister of the Good Shepherd Carmen Flores knew her vocation was in religious life, but could not decide on an order.

While discerning her vocation after high school, a priest gave her a book filled with options. She paged through it while at her workplace, where a coworker approached her.

The woman flipped to the Sisters of Good Shepherd and told Sister Carmen that this was the one she wanted. The sisters had cared for the woman when she was a young girl.

"God calls you, whether it's religious life, married life," Sister Carmen said. "It is what he wants us to do."

She was among more than 60 religious men and women who celebrated milestones on the World Day for Consecrated Life March 3 with Mass and a luncheon at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Baynesville.

"It is women and men in consecrated life who form a firm foundation for this local church," Archbishop William E. Lori said in his homily to religious women and men during the Mass celebrated on the World Day for Consecrated Life. "A local church cannot and does not thrive without people like yourselves."

"I want to thank you for being prodigal in your love for this local church, in your love for its young people, its poor, its needy, its vulnerable and its marginalized," Archbishop Lori said. "I want to thank you for the missions of mercy that you continue to sustain all around us."

"You," Archbishop Lori said, speaking to the jubilarians celebrating milestones, "have set your sights not on earthly power, or money, or pleasure, but rather on the

Kingdom of God.”

Sister Carmen joyfully spoke of her time spent caring for adolescent girls as she recalled her 50 years in consecrated life.

While the Sisters of the Good Shepherd have **closed their Baltimore facility**, which served adolescents with severe emotional and behavioral issues for 153 years, due to financial struggles, Sister Carmen remains with a handful of others to see the transition through.

In addition to religious women and priests, the celebration included religious brothers, such as Brother John Chung Nguyen. He answered his vocational call in his native land of Vietnam, where the Brothers of the Christian Schools, who were his schoolteachers, inspired him to join.

Other than a short break, since 1985 he has taught at Calvert Hall College High School in Towson, where he introduced personal computers to the students.

School Sister of Notre Dame Barbara Brumleve, celebrating 60 years, was likewise influenced by her earliest teachers.

“I just love the sisters, really,” said Sister Barbara, who works at Notre Dame Preparatory School in Towson incorporating the sisters’ spirit and charisms into daily school life. “It’s a wonderful life in the Church.”

“We work, we work, we pray and we work,” said Oblate Sister of Providence Mary Gabriel Walker.

Fellow Oblate Sister Hélène Thérèse Stanislaus said that religious women in their order work in a “potpourri” of ministries.

Sister Hélène Thérèse was taught by religious women, and found that certain orders were not ready for women of different races.

She was recommended to the Oblate Sisters of Providence, the first successful order established by women of African descent. Sister Hélène Thérèse was impressed with their hardworking nature, and fell in love.

“God,” Sister Hélène Thérèse said, “works in strange ways.”

*The following jubilarians were recognized in the archdiocesan program for the World Day of Consecrated Life:*

### **80th Jubilee**

Sister Anne Marie Solomon, RGS

### **75th Jubilee**

Brother Malcolm O’Sullivan, FSC

Sister Mary Elko, DC

Sister Teresa Mary Dolan, MHSH

Sister Marietta Russell, MHSH

### **70th Jubilee**

Sister Charia Ripple, SSND

Sister M. Holy Family Kerl, RGS

Sister Mary Carroll Elby, DC

Sister Agnes McBryan, SNDdeN

Sister Mary Renz, SNDdeN

Sister Rose Lafferty, SNDdeN

Sister Corrine Manzi, SNDdeN

Sister Mary McFadden, SSNDdeN

Father John C. Haughey, SJ

Father Joseph N. Tylenda, SJ

Father G. Donald Pantle, SJ

Father John W. Lange, SJ

Father Joseph P. Lacey, SJ

### **65th Jubilee**

Sister Mary Ita Hayes, MHSH

Sister Denise LaBonte, MHSH

Sister Marita Rodriguez Segarra, MHSH

## **60th Jubilee**

Sister Mary Laetita Hughes, RGS  
Sister Regina Loftus, lsp  
Sister Mary Patrick Brown, DC  
Sister Patricia Bossle, DC  
Sister Joan Urban, SNDdeN  
Sister Patricia Hoeflich, SNDdeN  
Sister Mary Louise Brown, DC  
Sister Sandra Goldsborough, DC  
Sister Nancy Stiles, DC  
Sister Mary Donohue, SNDdeN  
Sister Louanne Schubba, SNDdeN  
Sister Robin Stratton, OCD  
Brother Jeremiah O'Leary, CFX  
Father Kenneth E. Meehan, SJ  
Father Francis M. O'Connor, SJ  
Father Richard Poetzel, CSsR  
Bro. Thomas Trager, SM

## **55th Jubilee**

Sister Cecelia Sarorious, lsp

## **50th Jubilee**

Sister Bridget Connor, GNSH  
Sister Mary Carmen Flores, RGS  
Sister Wanda Zdziarska, SSMI  
Sister Eileen Donoghue, DC  
Sister Anna Biela, SSMI  
Father Robert E. Hamm, SJ  
Father Eugene Sheridan, CM  
Sister Pamela Jablon, SSND

## **25th Jubilee**

Sister Veronica Ferrao, RGS  
Father Bruce A. Steggert, SJ  
Father Stephen F. Spahn, SJ  
Brother Jesse O'Neill, SM

*Email Emily Rosenthal at [erosenthal@CatholicReview.org](mailto:erosenthal@CatholicReview.org)*