

# DIOCESE OF ORANGE



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF CONSECRATED LIFE: HONORS THE DEDICATED SERVICE OF RELIGIOUS SISTERS, BROTHERS, AND PRIESTS**

**ORANGE, Calif., (February 3, 2006)** – Initiated by Pope John Paul II, the Celebration of Consecrated Life recognizes the importance of vocations. The observance will take place February 4 at Holy Family Cathedral, Orange. The Most Rev. Tod D. Brown, Bishop of Orange, will offer 5:00 p.m. mass for the many religious in the Diocese; 120 are expected to participate and renew vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience as part of the service.

“We will pay special recognition to thirteen religious celebrating their jubilee anniversaries - ranging from 50 to 80 years of dedicated service to the church. I take special pride each year in recognizing such commitment; and honor their service on behalf of others,” said Bishop Brown.

Consecrated life has a variety of forms in the church. The Celebration of Consecrated Life is intended to help the entire church recognize individual commitments by men and women to follow Christ. It is also a time for consecrated persons to rekindle the fervor that led them to the religious life. While all diocesan religious are recognized, there is a difference in individual commitment to the Church. Religious sisters and brothers “witness” to Christ with vows or promises of poverty, chastity and obedience. Diocesan priests make similar promises to their bishop of obedience and celibacy.

“This celebration enables all diocesan religious to renew personal commitments to God, the Church and the laity we serve. It is an opportunity to recognize the mission of consecrated life concerns all of us working, praying and believing together so that the power of God may manifest itself in our everyday lives,” concluded Bishop Brown.

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