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Fargo Presentation Sisters and Associates celebrate 15th Annual World Day for Consecrated Life

In 1997, Pope John Paul II designated Feb. 2, the feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, as World Day for Consecrated Life.

The purpose of such a day is threefold: a) to answer the intimate need to praise the Lord more solemnly and to thank him for the great gift of consecrated life, which enriches and gladdens the Christian community by the multiplicity of its charism and by the edifying fruits of so many lives totally given to the cause of the kingdom; b) to promote a knowledge of and esteem for the consecrated life by the entire people of God and; c) to invite consecrated persons to celebrate together solemnly the marvels that the Lord accomplished in them, to discover by a more illumined faith the rays of divine beauty spread by the Spirit in their way of life, and to acquire a more vivid consciousness of their irreplaceable mission in the church and in the world.

The Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Sacred Heart Convent, Fargo, observed the 15th Annual World Day for Consecrated Life on Feb. 6, which was designated by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the observance of Consecrated Life Day 2011, by inviting their Presentation Associates for an afternoon of community building, prayer and discussion.

A DVD of Richard Gaillardetz's presentation, "Contemporary Religious Life's Creative Fidelity to the Vision of Vatican II," given at the August 2010 Assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious in Dallas, formed the centerpiece for input and discussion.

Participants studied chapters four, five and six of the Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, prior to the event. "Reviewing the Vatican II document and discussing the DVD was encouraging and stimulating. It makes me aware once again of what a great gift of the Spirit Vatican II continues to be. It is time for me to return to study and prayerful reflection on the documents," said a participant.

Holden Evening Prayer closed the observance. Plans are to continue this type of event for World Day for Consecrated Life on Feb. 5, 2012.