



Lasallian Reflections

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Guide for Community Discussion about "With a Passion for Christ and Passion for Humanity"

"With a Passion for Christ and Passion for Humanity" is the working paper prepared for the International Congress on Consecrated Life that was held in Rome in November 2004. It is based, most of all, on *Vita Consecrata*; and it attempts to move beyond that important document, which was published in 1996, toward new horizons, to which the Pope alluded or suggested without actually developing in the Apostolic Exhortation about consecrated life today.

The primary intent of the working paper is to assist religious to listen to the Spirit who is doing new things in religious life, things that we need to discover and better understand. They are the best fruit of creative fidelity, born from creativity and risk, docility and trust. These attitudes, the document suggests, guide us on the journey of religious life today.

"It is not easy to articulate what we need to do to make religious life meaningful in society and in the Church today" (#90). In addressing this point, the paper proposes a deeply theological and spiritual - and not a sociological and phenomenological - reading of religious life.

After having read and reflected upon "With a Passion for Christ and Passion for Humanity," you are invited to discuss it in community. To assist you in your reflection and in the preparation for your community discussion, the following questions are proposed:

1. How has the Spirit of the Lord prompted our religious Institute to respond to the urgent needs of today's world?
2. How does this response reflect a passion for Christ and for humanity?
3. From your reflection on this paper, what areas would you emphasize and/or add that could be of help to consecrated religious life in general?
4. What do we gain from reading this paper? What can we do as a result of what we have heard? Where is the Spirit taking us?
5. For what do you as a vowed religious have great "passion" [God ... humanity ... evangelization ... education ... the spiritual formation of youth ... the service of the poor]?