

Consecrated Virginity

At the request of Vatican Council II, a renewed text for the ancient Ritual for the consecration of virgins was published. From 1971 it became possible for women living in the world to receive this consecration.

The introduction to the Ritual states: *“Those who consecrate their chastity under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit do so for the sake of more fervent love of Christ and of greater freedom in the service of their brothers and sisters.”*

They are to spend their time in works of penance and of mercy, in apostolic activity and in prayer, according to their state of life and spiritual gifts.” Consecrated virgins are also strongly advised to celebrate the liturgy of the hours each day, especially morning and evening prayer.

In the Code of Canon Law promulgated in 1983, the order of virgins was added to the other forms of consecrated life.

It states that *“through their pledge to follow Christ more closely, virgins are consecrated to God, mystically espoused to Christ and dedicated to the service of the church, when the diocesan Bishop consecrates them according to the approved liturgical rite.”* (Canon 604)