

## **World Day for Consecrated Life (Feb. 7)**

There is no other explanation of the wonderful spectacle of the thousands of women all over the world, wherever the Catholic Church is, living their life in community, in the service and worship of God, in their convents, hospitals and schools, and all kinds of charities, enduring all kinds of hardships and suffering and even death, and persevering in this state of life. And there is no explanation of the secret of it, except this wonderful love which burns in their hearts for the heavenly bridegroom.

Now that which fosters this love and causes it to burn up and kindle within us, is the gift of our Lord himself to us in the Blessed Sacrament. That is the very heart and center of the religious life. It is our exceedingly great privilege to have come out of the world and assemble ourselves in the religious houses, where we practically live under the same roof with our heavenly bridegroom.

In a most intimate manner we receive Him every morning in Holy Communion. When we receive our Lord in Holy Communion, we receive God's body, blood, soul and divinity, the whole Christ, entering our lips and penetrating the inmost recesses of our heart even as he said, "He that eats my flesh and drinks my blood, abides in me and I in him." [Jn. 6:56] Consequently our life is a life of most intimate union. Our divine Saviour would not only have us live under the same roof with him and dwell in our chapels, which are for the time being a part of the court of Heaven, but he enters into our interior and penetrates our whole being and lives in us in this wonderful union. And all this is the fruit and the result of the Blessed Sacrament. Therefore, we should have a most wonderful devotion to the Holy Eucharist. (Fr. Paul Retreat Conference Aug. 19, 1926)