



100 East Eighth Street  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

March 2023

Dear Members of the National Conference of Vicars for Religious,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Archdiocese of Cincinnati for your 54<sup>th</sup> NCVR Assembly as you gather at the Jesuit Spirituality Center in Milford.

You have the opportunity to come together to welcome new vicars to the Conference, to strengthen the relationships that exist among you and discover ways of networking. Your Conference theme, "Along the Paschal Journey" will guide a meaningful exchange of ideas and initiatives that Vicars for Religious confront in their ministry.

No history of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati could ever be written without acknowledging the key part played by women and men religious and others in consecrated life. In a world where so many people are focused principally on their own autonomy, religious communities make a statement that is profoundly counter-cultural. And that statement is: There is no such thing as a solitary Christian. Saying "yes" to religious life – as you did – is saying "yes" to Jesus, who lives and walks with us, and "yes" to the Body of Christ, the Church.

Pope Francis has reminded us that "consecrated persons are....gifts to the dioceses" because they "are able to wake up the world" to an "eschatological outlook, of the values of the Kingdom incarnate here, on earth. It is a question of leaving everything to follow the Lord." (*La Civiltà Cattolica* 2014 | 3-17)

Your consecrated life is a gift to the Church. The Archdiocese of Cincinnati, in particular, is blessed by your presence among us during these days of prayer and reflection. Be assured of my ongoing prayer for vocations to religious life. May God continue to give you strength and wisdom as you walk along the paschal journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Dennis M. Schnurr  
Archbishop of Cincinnati