WHERE HAVE ALL THE PRIESTS and BROTHERS, SISTERS AND NUNS GONE? Back in the day there was a Pete Seeger song called “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” and sung by Peter, Paul and Mary. Today we often hear, “Where have all the Sisters gone?” but it’s a question that could be applied to the priests and brothers as well. Unlike the flowers that passed away the sisters, brothers, priests and nuns are alive and well. Many people today have memories of sisters, nuns, brothers but there are others who have only a vague understanding of consecrated life in the Church. Everyone is called to a particular vocation and it takes time to come to know what that is. It may be vowed religious life, marriage, the single life or priesthood. One vocation is the call to consecrated life in the Church. In 2013 Pope Francis declared that a Year of Consecrated Life (YCL) be celebrated throughout the world. It would begin on the First Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2014. It would close on February 2, 2016. The Pope underlined the aims of the Year of Consecrated Life, namely to look to the past with gratitude, to live the present with passion and to embrace the future with hope.

The logo ‘Wake Up the World” comes from Pope Francis’ challenge to those in consecrated life: to be witnesses of communion, of joy and the Gospel, and go everywhere to the peripheries to proclaim the Good News. “I am counting on you to ‘wake up the world’. This is the priority that is needed now. But we know that the vast majority of vocations to the priesthood and/or religious life start and are nurtured in the family home.

In order to celebrate the YCL at St. Brigid of Kildare several presentations will be offered. These will help all of us to learn more about the consecrated life of religious men and women. I hope to see you there and know that you will be very welcomed.

To Look to the Past with Gratitude

1. **Date** August 31, 2015  **Time** 7:00 – 8:00 PM  **Place** Berry Room  

**Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America**  
This DVD narrates the virtually untold story of women who exercised leadership at a time when few women enjoyed such possibilities. Theirs is a story of quiet courage during many dramatic moments in U.S. history. Discover the mystery behind this small community of innovative women who helped shape the nation’s social, cultural, and spiritual landscape. This will bring back many memories.

Trailblazers in Habits is an intimate portrait of a group of American nuns, the Maryknoll Sisters, who have accompanied the disenfranchised in their struggle for social justice. By turns tragic and joyous, yet always very courageous. This youtube is a revealing portrait of these courageous women. This particular clip focuses on their work in Hong Kong. You get a glimpse of the intelligence and tenacity, the love, compassion and generosity of the missionaries.
To Live the Present with Passion and to Embrace the Future with Hope

We looked at the past and now we turn to the present and the future. Over the next few months we will learn more about what Order priest and sisters are doing today and what ministries their Orders are involved in around the world.

2. **DATE September 14, 2015  TIME 7:00-8:30 PM  PLACE Berry Room**

   Reverend Jay M. Harrington, OP, PhD, STD and David Monaco, CP Passionists

   We are very familiar with Fr. David Monaco, CP because he celebrates Sunday liturgy with us. He along with Fr. Jay Harrington, OP teach at the Josephinum. They will tell a bit about their work there but also tell us a bit about their religious orders: The Passionists of St. Paul of the Cross a world-wide community founded by St. Paul of the Cross, one of the great saints and mystics of the Catholic Church. The Passionists serve as preachers, retreat givers, pastors, educators and in many other ministries in the Church. We will hear about the Dominicans an Order founded by St. Dominic an 1216 for the specific purpose of preaching God’s Word (thus the initials OP).

3. **DATE October 12, 2015  TIME 7:00 – 8:30 PM  PLACE Berry Room**

   Sister Shawn Fitzpatrick, OP and Sister Diane Kozlowski, OP

   Sister Shawn will share the ministry done at the Dominican Learning Center of the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The work that is done is phenomenal.

   Sister Diane is the Co-director of Shepherd’s Corner in Blacklick. In caring for land, life, and spirit, Shepherd’s Corner provides environmental education, offers reflective experiences on care of creation, and renews the land while providing healthy, naturally grown produce.

4. **DATE November 16, 2015  TIME 7:00-8:30 PM  PLACE Berry Room**

   Sister Eileen Fitzsimmons, O.Carm the Nurse Manager at the Villas of St. Therese will tell about her work and also the work of her community. The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm have provided over 55 years of spiritually motivated care for the elderly of Columbus. St. Raphael’s Home was founded in 1948 and St. Rita’s Home was opened a year later. The Villas at St. Therese Independent and Assisted Living were established in 1998. Our new facility is located next door, creating a continuum of care in a central campus-like setting. The St. Therese Retreat Center and Mother Angeline McCrory Manor are also located on campus.
Order priests, sisters and brothers serve all over the world as missionaries. The Dominican Sisters of the Sacred Heart came to Zambia, Africa in 1924. They minister in education, health, pastoral and social services. Their passion is in praising, blessing and preaching God’s goodness everywhere. Sister Emma Malisawa, OP is currently a student at ODU working towards their Masters Degree in Educational Leadership. She will share with us her ministry as well as the ministries of the Dominican Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

We continue with someone who is very familiar to us. Sister Joan Harper, CDP is certainly no stranger to us. She has served this parish for many years. Sr. Joan will share what her current ministries are here at St. Brigid of Kildare and in the Archdiocese of Columbus. We will also hear the story of her congregation: the Sisters of Divine Providence. This will conclude our celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life. I think we have fulfilled the goals given by Pope Francis for this year: To Look to the Past with Gratitude and To Live the Present with Passion and to Embrace the Future with Hope.