

The Diocese of La Crosse has two sets of formation materials

Brief explanation of how to use the materials:

The first book, The Heart of the Bridegroom encourages the virgin in her beginning discernment and formation. Based on the final blessing in the Rite of Consecration the soul is invited to enter into the mystery of the Heart of Jesus.

The Heart of the Bridegroom Formation / Continuing Formation Companion Workbook Program is comprised of individual paperback "companion workbooks."

The text from the book to be used for reflection, prayer, study is printed on the left side of the companion workbook.

The blank spaces/pages on the right are for personal notes, reflections, prayer not only for initial discernment/initial formation but is also used in continuing formation.

The first three Companion Workbooks focus on Saint Joseph who was given part of the Heart of God the Father with which to love Jesus. He teaches us humility and obedience when accepting graces, total trust, surrender especially with the gift of virginity.

Seventeen companion workbooks are based on the eight chapters of book The Heart of the Bridegroom. In the exhortation in Vita Consecrata, Pope Saint John Paul II explains formation is a life-long process. A simple format for so great a gift.



For the person helping with formation a Formator's Guide is available

This three-ring binder contains the complete set of companion workbooks without pages for notes, QUESTIONS to accompany each companion workbook to guide discussion and accountability understanding the materials.

Encountering one who does not have this gift or grace of virginity, questions and points for discussion and discernment are included in the **red cover booklet entitled "What if? What Next?"**

A power point is also available on the Diocese of La Crosse Consecrated Life Web Site to explain this program.

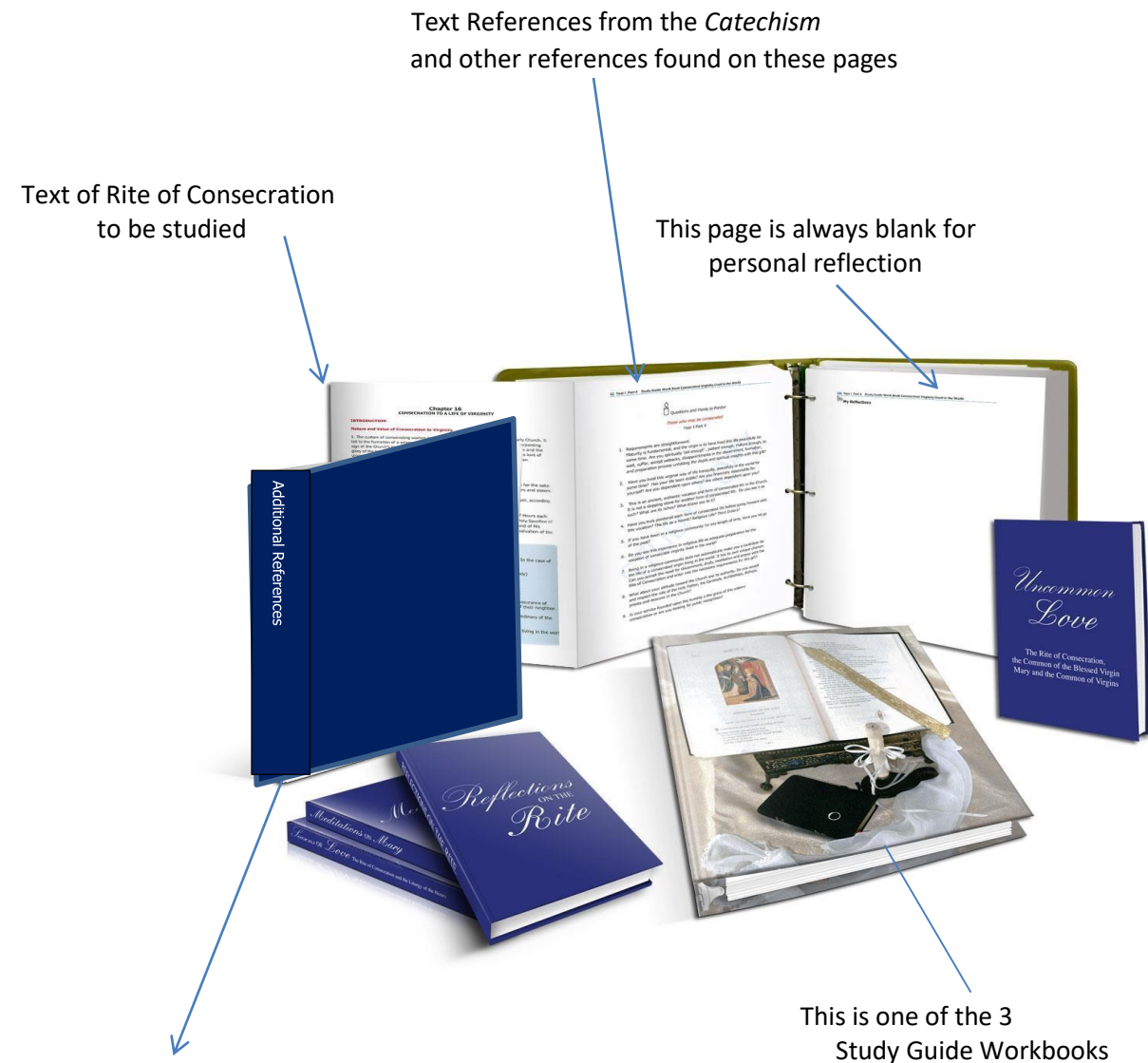
Meditations on Mary compliments The Heart of the Bridegroom. Using the sentence "Imitate the Mother of God..." and other quotations from the Rite of consecration as a basic tool to pray and ponder the Angelus, the Mysteries of the Rosary, Litany of Our Lady, and other meditations, it helps to deepen the Marian dimension of the vocation.

Reflections on the Rite is the line by line study of the entire rite, including the Introduction which is often times overlooked.

This second set of resource materials the Diocese has published for the vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world is pictured here. Permissions have been granted from the various Offices and Subcommittees of the USCCB and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

The three ring folder, workbook style format, contains definitions references from Catechism of the Catholic Church, papal documents with space for personal reflections, notes, questions and points for the candidate to ponder and share with her spiritual director. The laminated dividers with the highlighted text of the Rite, contain the pages to be studied.

Open the laminated folder to the left, open the laminated divider to the left again, turn the entire section of pages contained in the laminated divider back to the right to begin the study. When completed, turn the far left part of the divider back over the pages and open the next section.



Additional References

For durability, this book has been printed and is library bound blue hard cover book.

"...It invites the virgin along with her spiritual director to enter into the beauty of the rite which the Church holds out as a way for her to receive the graces to be that more faithful witness we are called to be in this Year of Faith particularly. "Additional References for the Study Guide Workbooks," is a fourth volume containing the complete text of the references used in the Study Guide." Most Reverend William P. Callahan



The cover of the Study Guide Workbooks (pictured here) is an expression of the spirituality of the Rite.

The Book of the Gospels is open to the Annunciation passage since it is with the Incarnation of Our Lord in the womb of the Blessed Virgin that virginity for the sake of the Kingdom first comes to light.

The candle is used in the calling of the candidate.

The ring and the veil are signs of the spousal reality of the gift of consecrated virginity as a bride of Christ.

The Liturgy of the Hours is given to the virgin as her principal duty, the praise of God and praying for the needs of the Church.

The other hardcover books are supplemental enrichment materials all based on the Rite of Consecration.

Resolve to Follow Christ uses the 3 questions the Bishop asks the candidate during the mass of Consecration. The 3 questions are first paralleled with the suffering Servant Songs from the Prophet Isaiah then the Stations of the Cross.

Uncommon Love Since the main "job or responsibility" of the consecrated virgin is to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, this book encourages the virgin to see the "Commons" in the Office Book as a well spring of meditation material paralleled with the Rite of Consecration as an expression of the uncommon love of the lives of saints and Our Lady as remembered throughout these commons. (This work is not yet completed)

The Diocesan webpage for the consecrated virgins also has several power points based on the Rite of Consecration, The Liturgy of the Hours, and retreat reflections.