

vocation discernment retreat

*for Catholic men and women considering
a vocation to the consecrated life*

November 21-23, 2008

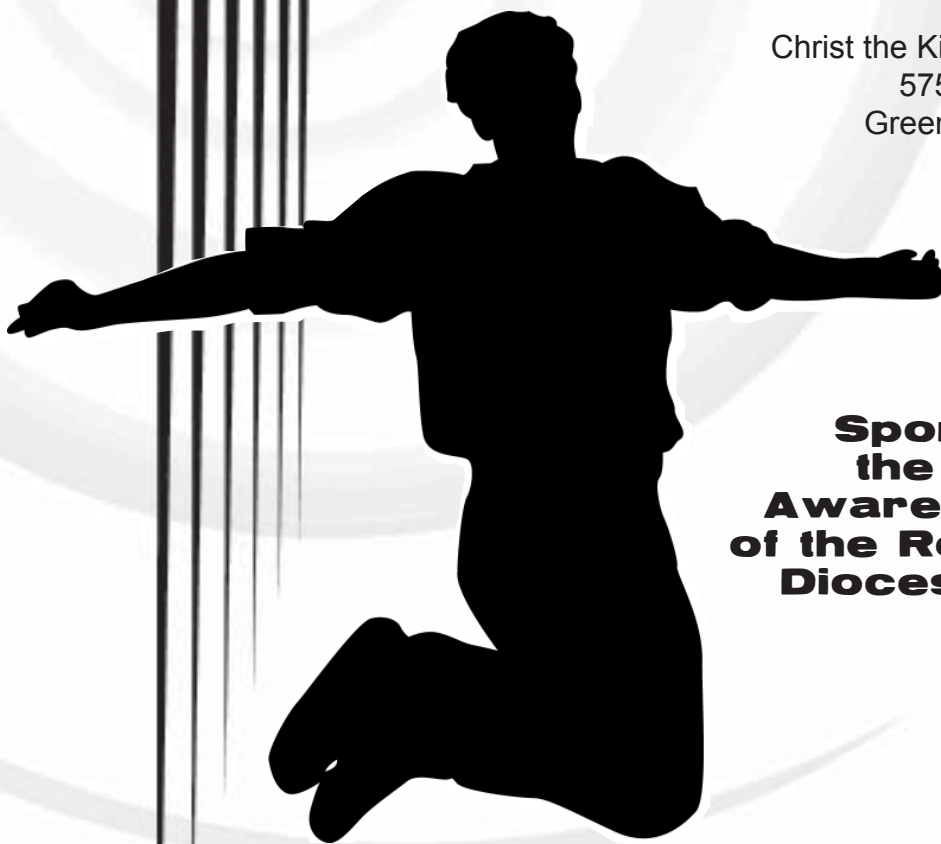
(check-in 3-5 p.m. Friday; departure 3 p.m. Sunday)

featured speaker

Rev. Aidan Rooney, C.M.

Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry &
Director of Vocations, The Vincentians

Christ the King Spiritual Life Center
575 Burton Road
Greenwich, NY 12834



**Sponsored by
the Vocation
Awareness Council
of the Roman Catholic
Diocese of Albany**

**bearers of a
living hope**



bearers of a living hope vocation discernment retreat

If you are a Catholic, single young adult (at least 18 years of age) who is open to exploring the possibility of a vocation to religious life, join the religious sisters, brothers and priests of the Albany diocese for a weekend of prayer and reflection in light of Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, *Spe Salvi, Saved by Hope*. We will begin in an atmosphere of silence with a guided experience of lectio divina, the contemplative reading of Holy Scripture. The retreat will include Mass, Eucharistic adoration, the Liturgy of the Hours, presentations on hope and discernment by Rev. Aidan Rooney, C.M., personal witness talks and opportunities for both one-to-one and group discussion with women and men who have followed God's call, as well as other young people who are seeking to discern God's will for their lives.

To Register:

- ▶ Complete the attached application form.
- ▶ Have a mentor or spiritual director fill out the reference form and return it to you in a sealed envelope.
- ▶ Send these two forms, along with the non-refundable **REGISTRATION FEE of \$50.00**, to the Albany Diocese Vocation Office, postmarked no later than September 20, 2008. Make checks payable to the RCDA Vocation Office.
- ▶ If for some reason your application cannot be accepted at this time, your registration fee will be returned in full.

A Day in the Life...

The retreat will be primarily a time of prayer. If you would like a direct experience of religious life by spending additional time with a religious sister, brother or priest—either before or after the retreat—please contact Sister Rosemary Ann Cuneo, C.R. at the Vocation Office at 518-674-3818, or rosemary.cuneo@rcda.org.

What is Lectio Divina?

An ancient art, lectio divina is the slow, contemplative reading of Sacred Scripture, which enables the Bible to become a means of union with God. When practiced on a regular basis, it helps us to develop an underlying spiritual rhythm in our lives which enables us to accept the embrace which God continually offers in his Son, and to offer ourselves, with Christ, for the Father's glory.

Why Hope?

Spe Salvi, Latin for "Saved in Hope," is Pope Benedict XVI's second encyclical. It was published on November 30, 2007 and explores the virtue of Christian hope. This theme is particularly relevant to young people, as Pope Benedict wrote in his message for World Youth Day 2008: "My dear young friends, be prepared to put your life on the line in order to enlighten the world with the truth of Christ; to respond with love to hatred and disregard for life; **to proclaim the hope of the risen Christ** in every corner of the earth."

What is the V.A.C.?

The Vocation Awareness Council of the Albany diocese is composed of religious sisters, brothers and priests whose communities serve in the diocese and who wish to foster a greater "culture of vocations" in the diocese. We are women and men who have heard and followed the Lord's call to service and intimacy with him. We are happy to be at your service during this retreat and in the months ahead as you continue your journey of discernment.

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RETREATANT APPLICATION

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____ Best way to contact you: _____

Please tell us about yourself:

Consecrated Life: What steps have you already made in discerning a vocation to consecrated life? Have you ever been a postulant, novice or professed brother or sister in a religious community?

Family: How many siblings do you have? Were you ever married? Do you have children? If so please indicate age(s).

Employment Experience: Briefly list current and past employment.

Education: Please list current college/university or place of highest degree/diploma conferred, along with type of degree/diploma.

Parish

Name/Location: _____ Pastor: _____

Parish/Church Involvement: Describe your involvement in prayer groups, service activities, ministries and/or Catholic organizations.

How do these activities relate to your sense of call and vocation?

How do you envision using your personal gifts and skills in ministry?

Please tell us about your expectations for the retreat:

How did you hear about the retreat?

Why do wish to make the retreat?

What are your expectations concerning your participation in this retreat?


Please describe your experience related to lectio divina.

Special Needs: Do you have any food allergies or other health conditions that we should be aware of during the retreat?

Emergency Contact Information

Name: _____ Relation to self: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

 Please inform your contact person of your participation in this retreat. Thank you!

I certify that all information in this application is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant

Print Name

Date

A non-refundable registration fee of \$50.00 must accompany this application form. Please make all checks payable to: The Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany Vocation Office, 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203. Applications must be postmarked no later than September 20, 2008.



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PERSONAL REFERENCE FORM

The RCDA Vocation Discernment Retreat is a weekend program for single Catholic young women and men who are considering a vocation in the Church as a religious sister, brother or priest. Please evaluate the candidate to the best of your ability. Use the backside of this form if necessary.

Please return this form to the candidate in a sealed envelope or mail it directly to the Vocation Office before September 20, 2008: RCDA Vocation Office, c/o Sister Rosemary Ann Cuneo, C.R., 40 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203.

Name of Retreatant: _____

Your Name: _____ Relationship to Retreatant: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

How long have you known the applicant?

Does this person have the emotional maturity to explore his/her vocational dreams and desires? Please explain.

Has this person been active in the spiritual life and/or ministries of his/her parish or faith community?

What gifts and skills would this person bring to ministry?

Please include any other information that might be helpful to the selection committee.

I certify that all information in this reference is correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date



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to respond with love to hatred and disregard for life; to proclaim the hope of the risen Christ
in every corner of the earth. – Pope Benedict XVI