

IMPRIMATUR FOR OUR FIDELIS BOOK

Chapters across the county might notice something new in the Fidelis book that serves as the foundation of our chapter meetings and organizational structure. Every year since the Fidelis's inception each chapter receives the Fidelis book annually. While this year's book looks similar to last year, there is one important difference. Bishop Emeritus Felipe Estévez of St. Augustine, Florida, gave his imprimatur to our formation program.

Imprimatur is a Latin word that means "let it be printed" and is derived from the Latin imprimere, meaning to "imprint" or "impress."

The Catholic Encyclopedia offers a helpful explanation of the process of reviewing a book for the imprimatur:

When examining books, the bishop must have before their eyes solely the dogmas of Holy Church and the universal Catholic doctrine as contained in the decrees of ecumenical councils, the constitutions of Roman Pontiffs, and the unanimous teaching of theologians.

The process prescribes that "the bishop, if after finishing the examination nothing is to be said against the publication of the book, should grant the author the required permission in writing and free of charge. The imprimatur is to be printed at the beginning or the end of the book."

In case the decision is favorable to the book, the bishop will give the approbation using the formula imprimatur, which Bishop Estevez has graciously done for Fidelis!

FIDELIS BABY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fidelis is in the midst of a baby boom! This year three Fidelis staff members— Priscilla McKinney, Jessamyn Frain, Marisol Ross—have had babies. Jessamyn's baby, Guinevere Ruth, was born in February. Priscilla's baby, Luly Ann Catherine, was born in May. And Marisol delivered Joseph Isaac in July, right during Inspire week, so she was not able to be present.



Left: Priscilla McKinney and baby Luly Ann Catherine
Right: Jessamyn Frain and baby Guinevere Ruth



Marisol Ross and baby Joseph Isaac

A GIFT WITH LIMITLESS VALUE

Will you consider increasing your financial support to Fidelis today?

Your gift not only helps the young people in your local community, but it will help start new chapters and train mentors in unreached communities. These young women play a key role in the Catholic Church. As they participate in Fidelis, they grow in virtue and faith, which shapes them as individuals and allows them to face the future with confidence in God. They are the next generation of saints, and your contribution helps them on their faith journey. That is a gift with limitless value!

Fidelis

THE INSPIRIT – FALL 2022

How your Gifts are Changing the Lives of Girls Across the Country



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRISCILLA MCKINNEY

There is never a dull moment in the life of a young but growing organization, and Fidelis is no exception. In some ways the beginning of fall can be seen as a period of winding down after a full summer—and what a full summer it was for Fidelis!—but in other ways the opposite is true. Our robust summer, capped by an incredible week of Inspire, has flowed right into these first weeks of fall as we work closely with new chapters across the country to begin their journey into maturity. We are also focused on supporting our chapters around the country for their weekly Fidelis Nights.

We have also seen a unity in the Sisterhood in a way that we have not in the early years of Fidelis. Several Fidelis members have moved or were visiting new areas and have been able to find a local Fidelis chapter in their new homes or in the places where they have visited. This has allowed them to take part in Fidelis even while they have been away from their home or as they have settled into their new surroundings.

Inside this most recent issue of The Inspirit, our periodic newsletter to our most faithful and enduring supporters, you will find:

Inspire Recap
New Fidelis Chapters
Imprimatur
New Hires, Familiar Faces

Fidelis would not exist if it weren't for your generosity both in prayer and financial support in joining us in forming girls—heart, mind, body, and soul—into a sisterhood of

mature, virtuous disciples of Christ through the witness of Catholic women. At a time in history when it is controversial even to speak truthfully about the difference between men and women, and at a time when lies and distortions about the human person are propounded by nearly every quarter of the secular culture, there has never been a more important time to form girls properly.

Thank you for your tremendous support and encouragement. To think, ever week in parishes across the country, there are Catholic girls and women meeting together, in groups large and small, joined together in sisterhood.

Sincerely

Priscilla McKinney
Executive Director



INSPIRE SELLS OUT

6 Religious Sisters from 2 Different Orders



Fidelis chapters from across the country—and more chapters are starting, as we detail later in this newsletter—gathered in July for a week of summer fun in the mountains of East Tennessee. By offering the Sacraments, outdoor activities, small group time, and more, this weeklong camp and retreat was the perfect opportunity for Fidelis sisters to grow in virtue and sisterhood. More than 200 Fidelis sisters from all over the country flew, bussed, and drove to Tennessee, many for the very first time.



In a remarkable outpouring of support for Fidelis’s mission, six religious sisters from two different orders—Sister Servants of the Eternal Word and Children of Mary—spent the week with us. Their sacrifice and witness, as well as their joy and good humor, made the week even more special for all of the attendees.

Here are just a few of these testimonies from this summer’s Inspire:

“This year’s Inspire provoked a great amount of poetic, religious, and profound thoughts ... The amount of quality information I received on often-ignored topics was beyond what I was expecting, making the trip a worthy endeavor. But it was combined with some extremely enjoyable outdoor activities that helped me reach new horizons of bravery, friendship, and camaraderie. It was a trip unlike any other.”

And here is a note from a mother who attended for the first time:

“My daughters had previously attended Inspire and I didn’t really get why it was so great. Having been here with the girls and the mentors has really opened my eyes to the beauty of sisterhood in a new way.”

Or this one from one of the young women:

“Inspire is the first time I have been able to have a holy hour in which I didn’t feel the need for distraction. I could just sit and stare at Jesus in the monstrance for hours now!”

Your generosity makes it possible to offer girls this incredible opportunity each year to participate in Inspire lead and grow at Inspire. We are all so grateful for your support of Fidelis and each of these young ladies!

NEW CHAPTERS IN FORMATION

Fidelis is thrilled to announce that it has started new chapters in Mobile, Alabama at St. Pius X Catholic Church and in Wake Forest, North Carolina at St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church. The chapter in Wake Forest will serve as the regional chapter for the Raleigh area with hopes of founding additional chapters in the triangle of Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill.

We are also excited to announce the launch of four new chapters this fall in Massachusetts, Indiana, Tennessee, and South Carolina:

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, East Sandwich, MA
 Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church Albion, IN and
 Immaculate Conception, Kendallville, IN
 St. Philip Catholic Church, Franklin, TN
 St. Andrews Catholic Church, Myrtle Beach, SC

We can’t thank you, our generous and steadfast donors, and the women in these parishes enough for your sacrifice to make these new chapters a reality. Fidelis was started with the realization and understanding that many women are eager to help form girls but are restricted by time and inexperience. That is why Fidelis provides all the resources to equip a team of women to build a Sisterhood of Disciples.

Fidelis walks a core group of pioneer women through the initial discernment, recruitment, training, and launch phase of a new chapter to ensure it is successful. It provides all program content, training, continual support, online workshops, and access to a host of online resources.

The goal is to provide a top-quality program for the girls while catering to the schedule of busy moms and working women. These resources don’t just ask women to coordinate events but also challenges them to live out a fuller sisterhood amongst themselves into which they can invite the girls.

We have also recently established a chapter onboarding team, made up of current and former lead ladies, to assist new chapters in the start-up process because we are growing new chapters at a fast rate.

If you or anyone you know is interested in learning more about starting a Fidelis chapter at your local parish, or if you would like to learn more about donating the seed money to start a new chapter, please contact Fidelis at 855-588-4222 or priscilla@fidelisonline.org.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT – Familiar Faces

Former Fidelis Members Oliva Schindecker and Sophia Holt Join Fidelis Staff



SOPHIE HOLT
 Operations Director

Sophie is the third child of a large, homeschool Catholic family from Washington State. She grew up singing at Mass and attending youth groups at her local parish, as well as competing in soccer and volunteering for her county’s Search and Rescue. Sophie is an original Fidelis sister and has continued to be a part of Fidelis since she was 16 years old! She is so excited to be a part of the Fidelis national team and helping oversee and strengthen our operations as an organization.



OLIVIA SHINGLEDECKER
 Media Associate

Olivia is a junior at Benedictine College in Kansas studying Philosophy and Theology. She was a Fidelis sister throughout high school and continues to be a Fidelis sister even from middle-of-nowhere Kansas! She is the oldest of nine children and thinks her siblings are the greatest gifts ever! She lives in community with four of her best friends at Benedictine in a home called “The Garden” where they live hospitality by inviting underclassmen and fellow students at Benedictine to come be watered, nourished, and grow.

Olivia has a passion for authentic femininity and sisterhood shaped by her experience with Fidelis and being mentored by incredible women through the years. You may find old YouTube videos on her channel Catholic Girl Talk, or find her having dinner with & mentoring college-aged women, discussing authentic femininity and masculinity with anyone who will listen, or teaching women about their hormones as a certified FEMM teacher!