



THE INSPIRIT – SPRING 2023

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



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PRISCILLA MCKINNEY

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This year, Fidelis celebrates 5 years of being its own organization and I celebrate being part of this National Organization for those 5 years. While I had been part of Fidelis from its inception and pilot years at the local level since 2012, this 5 year mark is truly something to celebrate. In these 5 years I have had the privilege of hearing countless stories of the impact that Fidelis has had on women, on young ladies, on families, and on entire parishes. I have seen the tireless effort that the amazing leaders in the parishes continue to put forth to get their chapters started and I am in complete awe of the very real attack from the enemy in these efforts but the ultimate success and triumph of God as these chapters not only start, but continue to grow and produce fruit.

So often when I talk about what makes Fidelis different from other “youth” programs, I get really excited because I get to explain how unique this Sisterhood really is. For one, we are not a youth program but a multigeneration Sisterhood. For two, we are more than just the local chapter. We are a national sisterhood, where our ladies have the support of other Fidelis Ladies from across the country at any moment of the day.

With the communication platform that Fidelis provides for all of our chapters, our mentors are able to stay connected to each other for prayers, encouragement, and success stories at any time of day regardless of what state their chapter is in. This virtual connection through group chat and through our monthly mentor formation gives rise to the desire and opportunity for in person connection through joint retreats and events.

This is modeled, too, by our National staff, as we also seek opportunities to come together

in person to grow in holiness and sisterhood while we work toward growing, improving, and advancing the Fidelis program and mission.

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

- New Staff Members
- INSPIRE Updates
- Giving Day Save the Date
- Chapter Initiation Photos
- Donor Spotlight & More!

What a blessing that through Fidelis, we get to live and model virtue in community with each other as we journey together from Sisters to Saints.™

Sincerely,
Priscilla McKinney
Executive Director



Tom and Dianne
Rider

DONOR SPOTLIGHT - TOM AND DIANNE RIDER

Ever since Tom and Dianne Rider were introduced to the mission of Fidelis, they have been hooked. They immediately volunteered to start a local chapter, but they asked themselves how they could ensure that they could continue to send sisters to Inspire? There was so much interest but not every family could afford the expense. Here is a brief reflection from some of most steadfast donors.

We were excited to help start a Bosco Society for our chapter, a model for fundraising that allows friends and families to donate funds to support sending sisters on this life-changing, summer experience. We volunteered to organize the first such event and contributed matching donations to get things started. With God's grace, our chapter has never denied a sister the opportunity to experience Inspire.

We have always been proponents of supporting Mission Advancement at the national level, too, so more chapters can

begin, and the sisterhood can grow. A portion of our monthly giving goes directly to this national effort.

In 8 years of our involvement, Fidelis has grown from 4 chapters to 24 chapters and Inspire has grown from 25 participants to more than 300 this year. We mention these numbers not because we take any credit for them but instead because this growth only continues to happen with the financial support of individuals like you who believe in Fidelis.

In our chapter we say each week, "No Sister Left Behind." We want to make sure that motto continues to be true, and we hope many others will support Mission Advancement at the national level so Fidelis can continue to grow in ways that are so necessary in our culture today.



Fr. Joshua
Johnson
Fidelis Chaplain

NEW CHAPLAIN, FAMILIAR FACE

Fidelis is dedicated to serving its members by providing resources to the mentors who help form girls—heart, mind, body, and soul—into a sisterhood of mature virtuous disciples of Christ through the witness of Catholic women.

As a staff and board, we often require the guidance of clergy to aid us in our mission of teaching and guiding all of our Fidelis sisters in the fullness of the truth of our Catholic faith. That is why we are so pleased to announce that Deacon Joshua Johnson has been named Fidelis's first chaplain.

Fr. Johnson serves as the Parochial Administrator of Saint Edmund Catholic Church in Flatrock, North Carolina, and

and he will soon be ordained a priest of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, a new diocese in the Catholic Church with a special mission of evangelization.

Fr. Johnson has been dedicated to the mission of Fidelis since its inception. He served the organization as an advisor, staff member, fundraiser, and personal donor. He was instrumental in forming and training the board as he worked to establish Fidelis as its own nonprofit organization. Fidelis would not exist without his role in this mission.



Destiny
Campa Meza

WELCOMING OUR NEW PROGRAM DIRECTOR

As many of you know, last September we said farewell to Jessamyn as she left her position with Fidelis and entered into a new season of her life.

Since Fidelis has grown by over 70 percent during the last three years, we saw this as the perfect opportunity to seek our first full-time Program Director to oversee creative and content for Fidelis' programs and marketing. We are pleased to announce that we have hired Destiny Campa Meza for this position!

Destiny joins us from Pueblo, CO, with a bachelor's degree

in English and a minor in Professional Writing. She and her husband are devout and active Catholics who teach Faith Formation at their local parish. Destiny has taught Language Arts and Literature and Composition to middle and high Schoolers for the last 3 years. She is a mother to two young boys and is excited about beginning this journey with all of us in the Fidelis Sisterhood.

You can look forward to receiving communications from Destiny through her new email address at program@fidelisonline.org. Please pray for Destiny and her family as she enters into this new adventure with Fidelis!

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!

INSPIRE 2023 - A week devoted to Prayer, Sisterhood and Adventure

Hidden away in the mountains of East Tennessee, Whitewater Express offers air-conditioned accommodations, wide open spaces, and a host of activities including whitewater rafting, high ropes, and horseback riding. Combined with daily Mass, Adoration, Confession, and sisterhood, this is sure to be a week you will never forget!



Meghan Ashley Sokolowski

We will be joined by special guest, Meghan Ashley Sokolowski, author of *The Catholic Wardrobe: Musings from a Personal Stylist*. Meghan Ashley is a personal stylist and has been a guest on the Jennifer Fulwiler Show, “The Gist” on Catholic TV, and more! We are so honored and excited to have her join us this year for Inspire.

To culminate our year of studying the virtue of Justice, we will be exploring how **We** are Worthy, how **Our Neighbor** is Worthy, and most importantly, how **God** is Worthy!

We already have more than 300 people registered—our biggest to date—and we would love to have as many as 350. We also have more religious sisters—14 from 6 different orders—planning to attend than ever before. The registration deadline is May 31, so don’t miss your opportunity to join this unforgettable summer adventure!

DAILY REFLECTIONS ADDED TO FIDELIS BOOK

The Fidelis Book is used during Fidelis nights, our weekly small group time. As many of you in Fidelis know, the Fidelis Book offers an opening prayer, a scripture verse, discussion questions, points from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, saint quotes, and an invitation to practice the virtue we are working on each week.

The Fidelis Book also offers nightly Compline and extra prayers to aid Fidelis girls in their daily lives, including an examination of conscience and litany of humility.

In order to provide more opportunity to make the Fidelis Book a daily companion for our girls, we have added daily reflections. Each day from August through May, the Fidelis Book will now offer a deeper look into that week’s virtue. It will include ways to grow in our knowledge of God and ourselves, offer reflections based on quotes from saints, a particular virtue, or a scripture verse daily, guiding readers in an examen of their own hearts, and invitation to pray with each quote.

FIDELIS TO FOCUS



Olivia Shingledecker

As a high school Fidelis sister, Olivia Shingledecker learned the importance of sisterhood and mentorship—something she carried with her into college. Here she shares a brief reflection on her newest plans after serving as Fidelis’s Media Associate.

After discerning where I was meant to be next year, I knew that I had to find a way to walk one-on-one with women in a mentorship capacity! That is why I’m

becoming a missionary with FOCUS where I will join teams of college graduates serving students on college campuses across the country. FOCUS missionaries embrace the call to make disciples of all nations by walking with students on their conversion journeys and helping students encounter the joy of living the Gospel. After an experience mentoring a freshman in college and teaching her about prayer and growing in the faith, I knew that FOCUS is the place I am called to continue the Fidelis heritage of friendship, mentorship, and sisterhood.

FIDELIS PLANNING MEETING & BABIES

The Fidelis staff recently gathered for our annual Inspire planning meeting. We compared photographs of last year’s planning meeting when the leadership team was expecting babies at the same time. Here are some before and after photographs, along with the babies!



LOCAL SNAPSHOT – Initiation Photos from Around the Country

Fidelis chapters across the country have been holding initiation ceremonies since our last issue of The InspirIt. Below are just a few photographs of ceremonies across the country.



Blessed Sacrament
CITY, Indiana



Saint Rose of Lima
Murfreesboro, Tennessee



Our Lady of the Lake
Hendersonville, Tennessee



Saint Catherine of Siena
Wake Forest, North Carolina



Saint Mark
Huntersville, North Carolina



Saint Patrick
Jacksonville, Florida

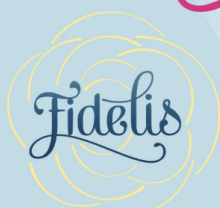


Saint Pius X
Mobile, Alabama



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Fort Wayne, Indiana

8 | 22 | 23
Save the Date



Tuesday, August 22nd
Fidelis Day of Giving
Help us grow the mission and the Sisterhood!
fidelisonline.org/DayofGiving