

Creating Awareness of Unique Religious Vocations at Inspire: NINE Religious Sisters to Attend Inspire This Summer!

Every year we invite religious sisters to join us at Inspire to provide sisterhood, spiritual direction and, just simply friendship to our Fidelis sisters. We believe that exposure to various religious from different communities that are so full of life, service and adventure are such great witnesses to our girls of how one can give their whole life to God. With the combination of religious at the camp and the witness of the married and single women who come as mentors, the girls are able to see every vocation in action. We also believe that exposure to different orders is a great way to help girls see the different charisms of each order, opening their hearts to listen for a possible call to religious life. This year we are so grateful that we will have nine Religious Sisters present at Inspire. Three of the Religious Sisters will be "Servidoras," Sister Servants of the Lord of the Virgin of Matara. They are a female branch of the Religious Family of the Incarnate Word. Their charism is the desire to bring the Incarnation of the Word to all people in their work with families, through education, in the media, and anywhere that humanity is most in need.

Four of the sisters will be from the Children of Mary, which is community based out of Cincinnati, Ohio in the service of the Church to satiate the thirst of Jesus to be loved in the Most Blessed Sacrament. These very sisters visited our Knoxville Fidelis Chapter and led the girls in a beautiful Lenten Retreat. Most of the same Sisters will be joining us for Inspire. They are Sr. Faustina Maria, Sr. Mary Jacinta, Sr. Cecilia Grace, and Sr. Veronica Rose.

We are also pleased to welcome back the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia. These sisters have played an integral role in several of our Fidelis chapters as mentors to our Fidelis girls at Our Lady Star of the



Children of Mary



Servidoras



Sr. Madeline Rose



Sr. Mary Martin

Sea in Bremerton, WA and in our Nashville Chapters. The two will be joining us this year are Sr. Madeline Rose and Sr. Mary Martin.

Sr. Madeline Rose is assigned to Knoxville Catholic High School in Knoxville, TN. Her message to our Fidelis

Sisters is as follows. "Greetings in Christ! My name is Sister Madeline Rose. I grew up in the beautiful state of Minnesota and moved to Tennessee when the Lord called me to be His bride as a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia. My favorite activities include talking about Jesus and being with people I love. I am always up for an adventure and enjoy jumping into all sorts of activities as a means to spend time with others-- whether that be hiking, sports, crafts, or just good old fashion laughing together! I am very excited to be joining you for Inspire this summer. May it be a beautiful time for us to encounter Our Lord together with hearts on fire!"

Sr. Mary Martin is currently teaching English and Theology at St. Benedict at Auburndale in Memphis, TN. Her message to our Fidelis Sister who will be joining us this year at Inspire is: "My name is Sr. Mary Martin (after St. Martin de Porres), and I grew up in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, right next to beautiful Lake Michigan. I entered the convent after spending two years as a FOCUS missionary. I am currently teaching English and Theology at a High School in Memphis, and loving every minute of it. I also love music, philosophy, board games and baseball. I am praying for you and I cannot wait to meet you all at Inspire, to pray together and to have fun!"

As you can see these religious are enthusiastic, faith-filled examples of pursuing a life of a religious. **Thank you for supporting our desire to have these sisters with us at Inspire.**

The
Summer 2021



Inspire
How your gifts are changing lives!

FIAT Sisters: Taking Fidelis Sisterhood to the Next Level

Inspire, our annual summer camp/retreat experience, is fast approaching, and as the anticipation grows, so has the number of our participants from last year. Almost 200 Fidelis sisters from all over the country will be flying, bussing, or driving to Tennessee, many for the very first time. What has also grown in our Inspire programming is the Inspire precursor retreat, FIAT. FIAT stands for Faithful. Inspired. Accountable. True. FIAT represents Mary's "yes" to God's invitation to accept the vocation that God had chosen her for. FIAT groups exist within Fidelis Chapters around the country. Fidelis invites all sisters in grades 9-12 to take part in a FIAT group. These groups are for those Sisters who want to build on what they are already receiving on their Fidelis Nights. They want more! In other words, FIAT is for young women who are **taking serious steps in the spiritual life and are looking for an even deeper experience of sisterhood and discipleship.**



Marisol



Olivia

Just as these girls are specially invited to dive deeper into their faith on a Fidelis night, so also are they specially invited to dive deeper at Inspire. These Fidelis Sisters will come to Inspire two days early and will be led in a private retreat where they will both pray for the rest of the sisters coming to Inspire, as well as grow in their own sisterhood and faith, preparing themselves to take on leadership roles within the Inspire Week. These Sisters will be living examples to the younger Sisters of how to grow a deeper relationship with Jesus.

These select young women will be led by Marisol Alicia, Inspire Coordinator, and St. Edward Lead Lady in Nashville, TN, and Olivia Shingledecker, a graduated Fidelis Sister, who was coronated a Lady at St. Mark's in Huntersville, NC.

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

Thanks to You, God Has Blessed Us Twofold

Inspire is not the only thing that is growing, so is our staff! Through your generosity and God's providence, we were able to add two new positions to our team in order to serve the growing needs of this incredible mission. This April, **Nicole Berlucchi** was hired as our new **Development Associate**. Prior to joining Fidelis, Nicole served as a Major Gift Officer and Vice President for the Catholic Leadership Institute, a ministry serving bishops, priests, religious and lay leaders at the parish and diocesan levels. Ni-

cole has worked in a number of senior development and higher education roles, at the Wharton School and Malvern Prep. Nicole received her B.A. in Communication Management from the University of Dayton and a certificate in Marketing Management from the Wharton School.

Nicole, her husband Joe, and their four children, Layla, Charlie, Annie, and Leo are members of Catholic Church of the Nativity in Spring Hill, TN.

Continued, next page...

Twofold...continued

Nicole's daughter, Layla, is a member of the Fidelis Chapter there.

Nicole's experience is exactly what we need and more than we ever could have expected with the role we needed filled.

Your continued support is what makes this position even possible. God has truly blessed the Fidelis mission with the addition of Nicole to our team.

As we were looking for a Development Associate, Fidelis was also seeking an individual to serve in a volunteer position as **Finance Associate**, and just as always God provided! We were guided to a young lady by the name of **Kaitlyn Cobb**. She is an accounting analyst in Charlotte, NC. She grew up in the Lake Norman area attending and participating in the LifeTeen program at St. Mark Catholic Church,



Nicole Berlucchi



Kaitlyn Cobb

where she is now a Fidelis Lady. Kaitlyn earned her Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she met her now-husband, Justin. In her free time, Kaitlyn enjoys hiking with her husband and her dogs, Joker and Quinn, powerlifting, and reading.

Kaitlyn willingly answered the call to join our Fideliteam and even our Fidelis board, serving in this position as a volunteer duty for a board member.

We are grateful that God has called these lovely and talented individuals to help us serve this growing sisterhood and to sustain the mission of forming virtuous girls who will become world changers.

Goal Set, Goal Achieved: Lady Mentor Training

by Betsy Hoyt

Because of your generosity and commitment to the future of the Fidelis Sisterhood, we are able to cultivate an environment of growth and formation for our Fidelis Ladies. During the 2020/21 Fidelis Season we kicked off a brand new monthly training and formation opportunity for the Sisterhood of WOMEN who are engaged in Fidelis. With these zoom meetings we have been able to realize our goal of digging deep to establish a firm foundation where we can forge lasting relationships and a legacy of authentic Sisterhood among our mentors. This sisterhood is multi-generational! It's one of the unique and impactful aspects of the Fidelis Sisterhood.

Currently, all the Ladies of Fidelis are invited to join the Lady Mentor Trainings once per month. The presented topics are intended to equip the Ladies for questions they might encounter in their chapter. This year we have explored mentorship and the feminine heart through presentations from priests, Fidelis leadership, Lady mentors, and Fidelis Sisters from around the country. Some of our topics include:



Mentoring the Feminine Heart, Navigating the Gender Crisis through the Lens of Sisterhood, Why a Crown and not a Sword?, How to Start a FIAT Group, Steps to Create a Holy Week Experience at a Fidelis Night, and How to Host a Bosco Event. The topics we present help to form the women spiritually and also provide practical help to sustain an effective Fidelis Chapter. In order for all of the Ladies to have access to the training and help, each meeting is recorded and posted to the Fidelis website in the Lady Resources.

You can see that your support is creating, inviting, and sustaining the growth of so many women whereby they take what they're learning and invest and pass it on to the Fidelis Sisterhood. You could say that **you are really paying it forward as a Fidelis Donor!** We are so grateful that you consider Fidelis a promising investment... as your return on this investment is truly transforming lives and is getting so many souls on the path to salvation!

Donor Spotlight · Fr. Noah Carter

My experience with Fidelis and Inspire has been through the local chapter level up to the national level. I have witnessed at the local level how the mentoring and training in the virtues through authentic friendships for the sake of God has truly transformed the outlook of young Catholic women. Often times, these young women are inundated with images, messages, and models of "femininity" that clash with the message of the Gospel. As they grow in their teen years, they have the option to turn to the message of Christ and his Church, or live like the world tells them they should live. Entertainment, music, television, film, secular organizations, and news feed our young women with lies and false promises. **Fidelis and Inspire provide the environment for them to hear the voice of God piercing through the lies and be encouraged by peers and adults alike.**

When I was assigned to St. Mark Church in Huntersville, NC, I popped in each week to the Ladies' Night. It was very rare to see even one frown in the room. There was one sister who had come to Fidelis because she needed the support to discover God's awesome love for her and her identity as a daughter. She was hesitant at first to participate. Some said that she was shy. After she attended for a few weeks, she began to open up, and I struck up a conversation with her one evening. She shared with me that at her school, all the other girls shunned her because she was such a goody two shoes. She wasn't after relationships with boys or putting off her school work. She was struggling to do what she knew was right and Christian at school while all the other girls made fun of her and encouraged her to do what everyone else was doing. She wasn't shy. She thought all the sisters at Fidelis would be like all the other girls she knew. But how wrong she was!

Within a handful of weeks, she was part of the sisterhood and growing in confidence to continue living as a woman of virtue and holiness in the midst of the worldly peers at her school. She admits even today that it's not easy all the time, but she can call or text one of her sisters for support and for prayer.

I served the following summer as the chaplain at Inspire. What I experienced on the local level was multiplied exponentially during that week in Tennessee. Daily I heard confessions, celebrated Mass, and accompanied the sisters at many of their activities. The ladies who assisted at Inspire, too, were truly models of faith for the young women.



Fr. Carter with Fidelis leaders at Inspire 2018.

The messages and overall theme drove home truth about who they are and what God wants them to continue to strive to be. I was struck when I returned the following year to participate in Fraternus Ranch, Inspire had the presence of religious sisters to accompany the girls throughout the week. The sign of the consecrated lives as women devoted entirely to God was tangible and effective. Their testimony was

proof that God makes each young woman differently, but that the common sharing of the feminine nature requires them to form a sisterhood to support, challenge, and encourage one another in any walk of life. Altogether, **I would venture to say that it's impossible for a young woman to participate in Inspire and not walk away with a deep respect for herself, because she has been renewed in experiencing how God sees her.**

I wholeheartedly endorse Fidelis, along with Fraternus, for all the work they are doing to live as children of God and wrestle with the expectations and lies of our modern, secular culture. **I am proud, too, to be a member of the Bosco Society by financially supporting the work of Fidelis and Fraternus. I frequently encourage others to do the same.**