

2 February 2018 Celebration of Religious Life Archdiocese of St. John's

Today at the Basilica Archbishop Currie presided at the Eucharistic Celebration for the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. The celebration also honoured the gift of religious life to the church and to the world.

Over sixty Sisters of Presentation and Sisters of Mercy, members of the Jesuit, Redemptorist and Christian Brothers communities, as well as a large group of Associates of the five congregations, participated in the celebration. There was also a large number of the faithful from different parishes including some other priests. The Basilica Parish choir led the music and song.

An image of each of the five founders was carried to the front of the church for display and the assembly followed in procession with candles that had been blessed. The Archbishop greeted all present and expressed appreciation and gratitude to the religious for their commitment and generosity over the many years and for their excellence and commitment in ministry to the people of God. Fr. Critch spoke at the homily about the inauguration of the Day for Consecrated Life and the opportunity it provides to recognize the dedication and contribution of religious men and women to the church and to the world. While offering sincere appreciation and commendation he also offered a challenge not to "rest on our laurels" as there is still much to be done!

Following the liturgy all were invited to lunch. Circular tables with chairs were arranged in the ambulatories with linen cloths and china cups and saucers! Sandwiches and cookies had been prepared and tea and coffee served by parishioners.

We express deep gratitude to the Archdiocese and especially to Fr. Cecil Critch for this recognition and for the opportunity to celebrate religious life in the context of the people of God at prayer and at worship. The gathering was a lovely sign of the collaboration and the unity of faith among all believers.



