



THE INSPIRIT – SUMMER 2024

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





A NOTE FROM THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Priscilla McKinney

As you may have read earlier this summer, I announced my transition from Executive Director of Fidelis to a member of the board of directors effective September 15th.

Over the past two months the board of directors undertook a national search to identify my successor. A number of impressive women submitted applications, and the quality of the candidates was remarkable. There are so many wonderful women who are doing extraordinary work for their families, communities, and parishes. One candidate in particular stood out above the rest. She has just the experience and leadership we need at this important moment in the history of Fidelis. And that is why I am excited to announce that Fidelis's board of directors selected Monica Dolenc to be the new Executive Director. She will officially begin her role on September 16.

Monica will be writing to you soon and you will hear from her again in this quarterly Inspirit column this fall, but I want to share a brief quote from her and a thumbnail sketch of her background that reveals why she emerged as the clear choice to direct Fidelis...

Meanwhile, this summer we had a spectacular Inspire in East Tennessee and at the Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis. Fidelis was one of the sponsors of the event, and we had a booth at the congress. We visited with so many of you from across the country, which was one of the highlights of our time. You will find photographs and testimonials from both Inspire and the Eucharistic Congress in this issue...



Monica Dolenc comes to us from Canton, OH with her BA from St. Mary's College in Communications, Theatre, and Public Relations and an MBA from Walsh University. She is a wife and mother of 3 with over 15 years of professional experience in donor and foundation relations, client services, cultivating successful grant proposals, creating and implementing winning development/sales strategies, marketing and outreach in both non-profit and for-profit environments, compounded with a deep understanding of public policy issues, trade association operations, PAC management, communication strategy, and higher education advancement.

As a volunteer Monica is a founding board member of the Loretto Trust, an organization

created for the purpose of preserving Saint Mary's College identity as an authentically all-women and Catholic institution of higher education, Respectfully opposing policies and campus activities that are at odds with the College's Articles of Incorporation stating it must adhere "to the tradition, teaching and Canon Law of the Roman Catholic Church." Monica is also a volunteer and holds the position of Secretary of the Board of the Rhoda Wise Shrine, in Canton, OH.

Monica says, "I am humbled, thrilled and in awe of how our Lord has brought Fidelis to me. I am excited to work with the staff and all of the incredible women involved in this community to help women lead virtuous lives and grow closer to Christ."



FIDELIS LADY LENTEN PILGRIMAGE

One of the goals of Fidelis is to mentor the mentor. We equip the ladies of Fidelis with the resources and support they need to effectively guide and mentor the Fidelis sisters in their chapters.

This past Lent we embarked on our first Mentor Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama. This three-day pilgrimage and retreat was attended by a number of ladies throughout the region, and it proved to be deeply fruitful and meaningful for all of the attendees. In addition to access to the sacraments and excellent spiritual talks, we were also able to spend time with one another and deepen the bonds of friendship that continue to be such an important part of our work at Fidelis.

We hope the Mentor Pilgrimage will continue to be a special annual opportunity for those who are responsible for and do such a remarkable job forming the young women in Fidelis. Save the date for April 10-12, 2025 at the same location for next year's pilgrimage!



1,169

Total Fidelis
Members

9

States

20

Local Chapters

156

Inspire Week
Attendees

342

Fidelis Lady
Mentors



INSPIRE 2024

Looking Back on a week Devoted to Prayer, Sisterhood, and Adventure

This year's Inspire was hidden away in the mountains of East Tennessee and offered wide open space and a host of activities, including whitewater rafting, high ropes and horseback riding. Combined with daily Mass, Adoration, Confession, and sisterhood, it was a week the attendees will never forget.

This year we were also blessed to be joined by two women religious

orders at Inspire: the Daughters of the Divine Will and Sisters of St. Michael.

We were excited to see so many of you and your daughters at Whitewater Express earlier this summer, and we hope you enjoy the photographs and testimonials from this amazing experience for Fidelis.



TESTIMONIALS

“I am tremendously grateful to the entire national staff for creating such an enriching experience at Inspire. The Sisters were challenged physically, spiritually, and emotionally—a comprehensive balance that is not easy to strike. At times Inspire felt like a traditional summer camp, and at others it felt like an intensive spiritual retreat. Countless times I watched girls grow in fortitude, whether it was overcoming their fear of heights on the giant swing or sitting before the Blessed Sacrament with tears streaming down as they worked through intense expressions of emotion. It takes courage to be vulnerable in such a way but they felt safe to do so because of the love, encouragement, and example of the Fidelis leadership and the healing environment they provided. Inspire is nothing short of a gift from God to all involved.”

“Before I came to Inspire, I didn’t believe I was loved. Spending time in adoration with girls who understood me for who I am, opened my eyes. Thanks to Inspire, I am ready to spread the Gospel proudly. I am loved, and so are you.”

“Inspire is a faith and fun filled experience that creates a spiritual sisterhood unlike anything I’ve ever seen. My daughter’s faith was deepened, her friendships strengthened, and her sense of God’s love for her was more tangible than ever. I am forever grateful to Fidelis for showing my daughter how truly beloved she is.”

“You don’t know how much you need Fidelis until you actually come!”

CORONATION CEREMONIES



Saint Michael
Snohomish, Washington



Saint Mark
Hendersonville, North Carolina



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Fort Wayne, Indiana



Our Lady of the Lake
Hendersonville, TN



Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton
Fort Wayne, Indiana



Holy Ghost
Knoxville, Tennessee

EUCCHARISTIC CONGRESS

The Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis was nothing short of inspirational and transformative for the Fidelis sisters who attended. Seeing so many familiar faces and meeting so many other incredible people—all of whom were so excited to learn that an organization like Fidelis exists—made a deep impression on us. Countless numbers of people took our

information back with them to their parishes to start the process of starting a chapter in their area. In addition to all the spiritual fruits of the congress, we are hopeful that Fidelis will be able to help even more women rediscover their God-given femininity and grow in authentic relationships with God and other women.



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1. We had the opportunity to meet Jessica from Sweet Little Ones who designed our Saint Quote Prints that each member receives at the Initiation Ceremony six years ago, and who now has a daughter in Fidelis! 2. Sister Madeline Rose (left) was a previous Inspire attendee and Sister Maria Caeli (middle) was part of her local Fidelis chapter at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Bremerton, WA. 3. We were grateful to share our booth with our brother organization, Fraternus. 4 & 5. Ellen Page and Andrea Krumanaker are Coronated alumnae from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, IN



A CHAPLAIN'S REFLECTION TO FIDELIS GIRLS By Father Derek Lappe

The Fidelis program at Our Lady Star of the Sea has had an incredible impact on our girls individually and the parish as a whole. Fidelis offers them a place where they can come together to learn, discuss, and grow in true Christian femininity without the distractions and pressures of the culture at large. The friendships they form really do support one another in living out the Christian life and growing in virtue.

I have seen the girls at my parish thrive in so many ways because of their experience with Fidelis, especially after they have returned from the Inspire summer camp.

Fidelis has had a great impact on families, too, and it also helps girls form close, loving bonds with their mothers and sisters.

I cannot imagine a better way to form our young women in Christian discipleship and train them to be courageous witnesses of the power of the Gospel in the world.

Our parish is blessed to have about 40 girls each week who gather with virtuous women who form and lead them in becoming the Christian women God has created them to be. It is always a genuine delight for me to see the joy and fun and friendship they share.

The girls in Fidelis really are the future of the church, and as a priest they fill me with great confidence and hope.

Father Derek Lappe is the pastor of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Bremerton, WA.



DONOR Q&A - DAN AND LINDA LANDRIGAN

What was it about Fidelis' mission that made you want to contribute?

We really appreciate the mission to form young women in virtue and knowledge of their worth and true identity as daughters of God. We live in a very challenging culture and Fidelis provides a counter message that helps support young women in their faith and identity. We believe the content that Fidelis provides and the working model that it is based on is a very valuable tool for individual Fidelis chapters to thrive.

What ways have you been involved in Fidelis beyond financial contributions?

I began our chapter as the Lead Lady in 2018 along with the assistance of a wonderful group of women who came alongside me to get our chapter up and running. Many of those original women are still involved and like me love Fidelis and have felt personal growth in their own lives of faith. Dan started and led Fraternalis in 2017 until this current year but is still very actively involved. I served on

the board from July 2018 until October 2023. It was an honor to participate in the early beginnings of Fidelis as an independent non-profit 501c 3 entity.

What specific contributions did you hope to make?

Contribution wise we have hoped to help Fidelis National be able to meet the needs of the ever increasing number of chapters nationwide, and to be able to promote the mission in a greater way. We hope to see Fidelis continue to provide quality programming.

Why do you give to the national organization rather than only supporting local chapters?

We give nationally because without their support and content we wouldn't be able to sustain what we do on a local level. We know of no other entity that provides what Fidelis does so well and in such a holy and attractive way. We are 100% behind the virtue based Sisterhood format.

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!

Support the Sisterhood



BECOME A MISSION SUPPORTER TODAY

Mission Supporters make your local chapter and other Fidelis chapters around the country possible.

Through Fidelis, women come to fully understand their identity and confidently give witness to a virtuous life.

When a woman understands the value of her worth, she is able to live a beautiful and virtuous life, drawing people closer by her holiness and grace, and ultimately strengthening her community by upholding a moral standard for herself and those around her.

Women have always had a major role influencing our society and changing our world, and Fidelis is leading the way today.

Will you become a Mission Supporter today and grow Fidelis with us? The world needs Fidelis! And Fidelis needs You!

3 Levels of Support

\$75 8" x 8" Canvas Print

\$150 Above plus Little Happy Honey Basket

\$250+ Print, Basket and Set of Theresian Candles

Use the QR code to become a supporter today!



Queen

Two Beeswax Theresian Candles
\$250+

Honey

Little Happy Honey Basket
\$150



Hive

Coronation of the Virgin Canvas Print
\$75

