



Conversi Commitment Ceremony
10 June 2018

Fr. Jonah: *Let us begin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

All respond: *Amen*

Romans 12.1 – 8

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Fr. Jonah: *What do you seek?*

Janice Krakora-Looby and Kate Zilla stand and say together: *The mercy of God and the fellowship of this Community.*

Sr. Gail: *As it is your desire to commit to the Conversi community, and ours to assist you in this commitment, please state your intentions.*

Janice and Kate rise and say together:

Baptized into the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, I freely accept His New Covenant, agreeing to live in love of God and humankind. Sensing a call to discipleship in the Cistercian contemplative path, I commit myself to pray daily, to seek God's will for my life, and to expand my service to God and others, including the Conversi Community. With Mary's example to guide me, whose response to God's call was born of a humble heart, I especially offer myself to carry Christ's light and love to all I encounter.

To this end I welcome the help of my God and my brothers and sisters in Christ. Today as I come to

make this commitment, I count on the prayers of my brothers and sisters of New Melleray and Our Lady of the Mississippi Abbeys, and of my fellow members of Conversi. With their help, I pledge myself to a deepening of my Cistercian calling of prayer, contemplation, and work, in order that I might grow closer to what God is calling me to be.

RENEWAL OF JUNIOR COMMITMENT:

Janice remains standing, while the others are seated.

Sr. Gail: *Janice, you are renewing your Commitment to the Conversi community and to the Cistercian contemplative path. Do you reaffirm your commitment to discipleship in the Cistercian contemplative path, to pray daily, to seek God's will for your life, and to expand your service to God and others, including the Conversi Community?*

Janice responds: ***I do.***

Fr. Jonah: *Will you continue the good work you have already begun?*

Janice responds: ***With God's help, I will.***

Fr. Jonah: *May God support you in your continuing journey.*

Janice is seated and Kate rises.

RENEWAL OF SENIOR COMMITMENT:

Sr. Gail: *This year Kate Zilla is renewing her senior commitment to Conversi and to the Cistercian path.*

Fr. Jonah: *Baptized into the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, do you freely accept His New Covenant, agreeing to live in the love of God and humankind?*

Kate responds: ***I do.***

Sr. Gail: *Do you confirm your pledge to deepen your Cistercian calling of prayer, contemplation and work, in order that you might grow closer to what God is calling you to be?*

Kate responds: ***I do.***

Fr. Jonah: *Will you continue the good work you have already begun?*

Kate responds: ***With God's help, I will.***

Fr. Jonah: *As a sign of your commitment, please come forward and sign your statement.*

After Kate signs her statement, Fr. Jonah says: *May God support you in your continuing journey.*

As she is signing the document, Fr. Jonah blesses her new medallion and presents it to her.

Kate is seated and Collette rises.

BLESSING FOR THOSE ENTERING EMERITA STATUS

Sr. Gail: *After many years of faithful participation in and service to Conversi, Collette Snyder has requested emerita status. This status means that she will continue to be an integral member of the community, participating as she is able, but will no longer bear the responsibility of service on council and other committees that senior membership entails.*

Fr. Jonah: *Let us all raise our hands in blessing over Collette.*

Strengthened by your blessing, O God, may Collette be always thankful to you and bless you with unending joy. May she be confident that, in Christ, all that happens in her life will work together for good. We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

All respond: Amen.

Blessing and Presentation of the icon: Fr. Jonah blesses the icon and Sr. Gail presents it to Collette.

Note: the icon is an image of St. Veronica, who was blessed with an image of Christ because of her empathy for the suffering Lord. Like Veronica, Collette has been an example of empathy for those who suffer and our hope is that she, too, will be blessed with an increasingly vivid vision of Christ in those for whom she cares.

Sr. Gail and Fr. Jonah each offer some short and personal words of encouragement to the group.

The Ceremony concludes with a Blessing.

Note: the following will be making or renewing their commitments in their own parishes since they are not able to travel to New Melleray:

First Senior Commitment: Sorel Coward (South Australia), Francisco Barbin (Ontario, Canada), and Peter Stuart (New Zealand)

Renew Senior Commitment: Katrien Holvoet (Benin, Africa)

First Junior Commitment: Billy Bidwell (Tennessee) and Meritt Petrone (North Carolina)

Renew Junior Commitment: Margo Crandall (Idaho)

