

***Prayer for the Apostolic Visitation
of Congregations of Women Religious***

Loving and gracious God,

It has been said that you alone know
the names and numbers of all the congregations
of women religious in the United States.
You alone also know the hearts
of all the women religious in the United States.

We ask you to guide the Apostolic Visitation
in its three-fold goal
to look into the quality of apostolic
religious life,
to learn how we apostolic women
contribute to the welfare
of church and society,
and to assist the Church to strengthen,
enhance and support our growth.

May you bring blessings
from this apostolic visitation
that will multiply outward to those
with whom and to whom we minister.

May this visitation be an occasion
of growth and grace
for both the visitors and the visited.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

By Carol J. Crater SHF 2009

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Loving and Gracious God,

As Mary's visitation to Elizabeth was
an encounter with Christ for both women,
may the Apostolic Visitation of 2009 be
an encounter with Christ
for all participants.

May Christ open the eyes, ears and hearts
of apostolic women religious
to the good will and noble intentions
of the apostolic visitors,
and may Christ open the eyes, ears and hearts
of the apostolic visitors
to the contributions of apostolic women religious
to the welfare of church and society.

Together, may we --
the visited and the visitors --
work together to assist the Church to strengthen,
enhance and support our growth
so that our mission may be fulfilled and continued
in the Church and in the world.

We pray for your guidance and your blessing
on the Apostolic Visitation,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and brother.
Amen.

By Carol J. Crater SHF 2009