Blog
Religious Life



This illustration promotes the documentary “The Killing of Sister Dorothy” about three nuns and a lay missionary killed in El Salvador in 1980. The four-part series debuts Nov. 26, 2026 on Amazon Prime Video, days before the 46th anniversary of the Dec. 2, 1980, killing of Ursuline Sr. Dorothy Kazel, Maryknoll Srs. Ita Ford and Maura Clarke, and lay missionary Jean Donovan. (Courtesy of the Arehart brothers)



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## Join the Conversation

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Monday Starter

Amazon Prime Video will premiere Nov. 26 a four-part documentary series called "The Killing of Sister Dorothy," which focuses on recordings made by Ursuline Sr. Dorothy Kazel, killed Dec. 2, 1980, in El Salvador along with Maryknoll Srs. Ita Ford and Maura Clarke and lay missionary Jean Donovan.

Promotional material says Kazel's recordings document "the escalating political and social violence that would ultimately claim her life."

The series features archival church photos, videos and interviews with family, friends and other members of religious life, looking at elements of the women's faith, which led them to a country at war to care for the innocent.

The Cleveland Diocese, to which Kazel belonged, says on its website that the documentary's directors, three brothers from Ohio, first heard about the Ursuline's killing from their aunt who also was a member of the order and knew Kazel. They initially made a 12-minute film that later evolved into the series.

## Sister appointed to synod office

Pope Leo XIV appointed in late October Salesian Sr. Elena Massimi as one of two undersecretaries of the General Secretariat of the Synod. Massimi is a professor at the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome.

"This appointment highlights the valuable contribution of women religious to the life and mission of the Church, particularly in the journey towards an increasingly synodal Church," the International Union of Superiors General said via a social media post. "We also express our heartfelt gratitude to Sr. Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ for her years of service and tireless commitment to fostering listening, participation, and communion."

Becquart, a Xavière Missionary sister, served as the undersecretary of the synod from 2021 until 2026.

## Religious leaders will meet in Italy to discuss peacebuilding

Religious will gather Nov. 25-27 in Sacrofano, Italy, for the joint assembly of the women's International Union of Superiors General (UISG) and the men's Union of Superiors General (USG). The group will share experiences on "Walking together towards an unarmed and disarming peace," focused on how consecrated life can advance peace in the midst of wars, humanitarian crises, and divisions.

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Since members of religious life accompany communities affected by violence and war, offering assistance and hospitality while encouraging reconciliation, the gathering seeks to have religious leaders share those experiences, expertise, and resources. They also will weigh which steps consecrated life can take to better serve communities affected by conflict.

In a related event, UISG's anti-trafficking network Talitha Kum, along with UISG's International Migrants and Refugees Network, and the UISG-USG Commission for Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation, will host "Responding to the Cries of Our World," a hybrid event Dec. 3 to address global poverty and environmental degradation.

The two-hour forum will feature Catholic leaders, diplomats, members of religious congregations, and advocates who will explore practical responses to social and ecological challenges. Online registration is open here.

## Baltimore Carmelites launch podcast

To mark the feast of St. Teresa of Avila, a community of Carmelites in Baltimore launched the "Discovering the Fire" podcast Oct. 15, to talk about vocation stories, spirituality and engage with those curious about the path they have taken.

"People often ask about our way of life — not just what we do and how we spend our days, but what motivates us to live this way, what draws us to, and keeps us in, the Carmelite way of life," said the sisters in the website announcing the podcast. "There are no simple responses to these questions; each sister will have a different answer, will have made her own personal journey ... Our podcast allows you to listen into our

conversations as we explore these topics together."

The podcast, the sisters said in an email, explores faith, prayer, community, purpose and the search for meaning.

"Whether you're discerning your path, deepening your relationship with God, or simply seeking greater meaning in life, you'll discover the fire that has inspired generations to live with joy, courage, and love."

The monthly podcast will be available via Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Amazon Music and the Podcast Index as well as the sisters' website.