



*Anniversary
Banquet*

*November 9, 2014
Chicago, Illinois*

*To become a member or for more information about the
National Religious Vocation Conference, visit our website at
www.nrvc.net*

Dinner Menu

*Mixed greens, shaved red onions, mandarin oranges,
Candied pecans with Poppy seed vinaigrette
Herb seared chicken
Crisp shallots, Citrus beurre blanc
Herb garlic, mashed potatoes
Broccolini
Chef's choice of a chocolate plated dessert*

*It is the custom of NRVG to make a donation to the charity selected by
Region 7, the Precious Blood Ministry of Reconciliation,
in lieu of serving wine during dinner.*

May God Bless and Keep You

*May God bless and keep ---you, may God smile on you.
May God show you kind - ness, fill - you with peace.
And may God - bless - you, now and al - ways.
May you al - ways love and serve, filled with God's peace.*

Numbers 6: 24-26, adapted by David Haas

Music: Adorate Devote

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Sincere and abundant gratitude is extended to the Anniversary Committee whose task it was to assist NRVC to celebrate 25 years of service in vocation promotion to the Church and Religious Life; to promote NRVC and its mission; and to showcase an emerging NRVC ready to meet the needs of vocation ministry today and in the future. Committee members include: Dolores Orzel, Sister Elyse M. Ramirez, OP, Mark Teresi, Terry Tuohy, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, and Sister Deborah Borneman, SSCM.

Our centerpieces have been created through a generous donation from the Teresi family in cooperation with Mariano's Supermarket. These celebratory centerpieces will be donated to Community Center Pantry at Blessed Trinity Parish, Waukegan, IL

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NRVC Mission

The National Religious Vocation Conference is a professional organization of vocation ministers that presents religious life as a viable option in the Catholic Church. NRVC promotes awareness, invitation, and discernment to life as a religious sister, brother, or priest. NRVC reflects all forms of religious life and provides educational opportunities, resources, and other supportive services for the spiritual, professional, and personal growth.

PROGRAM

Welcome

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC



Invocation

Sister Deborah M. Borneman, SSCM



Dinner



Outstanding Recognition Awards

Father Anthony Vinson, OSB

Presented by Mrs. Maryellen Glackin

Sister Patricia Wittberg, SC

Presented by Sister Monica Gundler, SC



Mustard Seed Award

Michael Zak, Here I am Lord

Presented by Sister Michele Fisher, CSFN

Harvest Award

Kathleen Mahoney

Presented by Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC



Words of Gratitude

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC

Brother Ronnie Hingle, SC

National Board of Directors

Sr. Josita Colbert, SNDdeN	Mr. Mark McGuthrie
Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, RGS	Fr. Donald Miller, OFM
Sr. Anna Marie Espinosa, IWBS	Sr. Priscilla Moreno, RSM
Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher, CSFN	Sr. Anita Quigley, SHCJ
Br. Ronald Hingle, SC	Br. Tom Wendorf, SM
Sr. Maria Iannuccillo, SSND	Fr. Vince Wirtner, CPPS

National Staff

Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director
Sr. Deborah Borneman, SSCM, Director, Member Relations & Services
Mr. Justin Hurtado, Director, Finance and Operations
Mrs. Julie Montague, Executive Assistant
Miss Debbie Prieto, Staff Assistant
Mrs. Carol Schuck Scheiber, Editor of *HORIZON* & NRVC Newsletter

NCRVD John Paul II Award

1983

Brothers' Task Force
Sr. Mary Ann Hamer, OSF

1985

Fr. Basil Pennington, OSCO
Glenmary Volunteer Program

1987

Rev. Raymond P. Carey
Mrs. Margaret A. Paluch

The Impact of Engaged Membership

Twenty-five years after its founding in 1988, NRVC has over 800 members from 39 states and the District of Columbia, as well as international members from 12 countries. NRVC is known as a bridge builder because it embraces the varying spiritualities, missions, and charisms of its members from over 300 religious institutes that are apostolic, cloistered, evangelical, missionary and monastic.

While the message from the risen Christ to “Come, follow me” has not changed in over two millennia, the methods used to promote vocations continue to emerge as religious life evolves. The incentive to promote vocations is the belief that the multitudes of charisms in religious life are relevant in the twenty-first century and that new members want to join. NRVC is committed to providing its membership with seminal studies, new resources, and innovative workshops that strengthen and enhance the professional skills of those serving in vocation ministry.

There is a joyful spirit at NRVC with a pulse that is palpable in its members. Dynamic vocation ministers ask the deeper question, “How can I fully engage in my NRVC membership?” The answer begins with networking with one another at region meetings and in planning collaborative vocation promotion events. Members who are fully engaged are motivated to keep updated in the trends, issues, and best practices, in vocation ministry. They have the conviction that emerging adults are curious about religious life and desire vocation discernment. They are enthusiastic contributors to the field of vocation ministry as writers, presenters, and animators. Most importantly, fully engaged members mentor one another and support each other in prayer.

It is with a profound sense of gratitude for our members and all their predecessors that NRVC will culminate its 25th anniversary at Convocation. With a confident humility that God continues to call women and men to vowed communal life, NRVC members, staff, and board will continue to excel as a professional organization that exceeds the expectations of all those who promote vocations among and with the next generation of religious sisters, brothers, and priests.

Submitted by Sister Deborah M. Borneman, SSCM, NRVC Staff

The Impact of Biennial Convocations

Most things in New Orleans have a festive flair unique to “The Big Easy.” While we work hard and get our work done (well, most of the time), we enjoy ourselves celebrating life and the people who are with us. And, the NRVC Convocation held in the “City that Care Forgot” in 1996 was no exception.

We even got everyone present to join us in a “second line” waving their very own “NRVC Second Line” handkerchiefs and dancing through the hotel.

The truly unique part of Convocation 1996, however, was the presence of 200 young adults who had been invited to address us and the Convocation theme, “Who Do You Say that We Are?” Through processes planned by Sister Gloria Marie Jones, OP and Father Bill Kraus, OFM Cap., young people were able to personally offer to us their experiences of the ministry and witness of women and men religious across the U.S. Church, what encourages and discourages their consideration of religious life, and suggestions on how to better approach our ministry. All in attendance were humbled and touched by the honest sharing, the appreciation they expressed for religious, the genuine desire of many in attendance to discern a religious vocation, the willingness of so many young people to assist us with vocation promotion. With no disrespect to any of our guests, they were the hit of the weekend!

Our young adults even joined us in a parade – a surprise parade – right down the center of the main ballroom, complete with costumed Mardi Gras krewe members throwing beads and doubloons.

Through the collaborative efforts of the NRVC staff, the members of host Region V, the speakers and presenters, and the young people themselves, Convocation 1996 was a most memorable experience and with a record 670 attendees!

So, y’all come back, now. Hear?

Submitted by Brother Ronald Hingle, SC, NRVC Board Chair

NRVC Outstanding Recognition Awards

1990

Fr. Jerry Kaelin, OFM

1992

Sr. Catherine Bertrand, SSND

1994

Sr. Jane DeLisle, CSJ

1996

Sr. Illeana Fernandez, CSJ
Fr. Marvin Kitten, SJ
Fr. Daniel Rauzi, SDB

1998

Sr. Kathy Bryant, RSC
Br. Kenneth Grondin, CFC
Sr. Gloria Marie Jones, OP

2000

Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC
Rev. John Regan
Noreen Walter, SCL

2002

Fr. Jack Kurps, SCJ
Sr. Carol Mucha, RSM
Sr. Marcia Ziska, OSB
Sr. Carol Tropiano, RSM

2004

Sr. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ
Br. James McVeigh, OSF

2006

Sr. Susan Kidd, CND
Sr. Rose Mary Rexing, OSB
Fr. Warren Sazama, SJ

2008

Sr. Anita Louise Lowe, OSB
Sr. Rose Sevenich, OSF

2010

Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP
Fr. Kevin Nadolski, OSFS

2012

Sr. Josita Colbert, SNDdeN
Sr. Elyse Ramirez, OP Sr.

2014

Fr. Anthony Vinson, OSB
Sr. Patricia Wittberg, SC

NRVC 2014 RECOGNITION AWARD

Father Anthony Vinson, OSB



Father Anthony Vinson, OSB, is a Benedictine monk of Saint Meinrad Archabbey in St. Meinrad, Indiana. After graduating with a B.S. Degree in public relations from Northwest Missouri State University, he entered the monastery in 2001 and was ordained a priest in 2005. Father Anthony also holds a M.A. Degree in Catholic Thought and Life, as well as a M.Div. Degree, from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.

In 2004 Father Anthony was appointed director of monastery vocations for Saint Meinrad Archabbey, a position he held until 2009. Beginning in 2007, Father Anthony served three two year terms on the NRVC National Board. Father Anthony assumed the role of board coordinator for four of the five years he served on the NRVC leadership team. In addition to his board responsibilities, Father Anthony generously accepted positions on various NRVC committees, including the editorial board, rural life committee, management committee, and finance committee, where he also served as chair. During his tenure on the board, Father Anthony was instrumental in strengthening the collaboration between NRVC and NFCYM, which laid the important groundwork for NRVC's current successful participation in the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC). In 2013, Father Anthony was one of the NRVC site coordinators for the English speaking venue for the 14th International World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

When the 2012 *NRVC/CARA Study on Educational Debt and Religious Vocations* was released, Father Anthony agreed to be part of an advisory group to study the establishment of a fund to assist religious institutes in their welcome of candidates with student loans. The culmination of this group's work was the recent incorporation of the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV). Most recently, Father Anthony has generously agreed to continue his support of the NRVC mission by serving as a founding member of the NFCRV board of directors.

The Impact of International Outreach to Australia

A visit from NRVC's former executive director in 1997 proved to be a significant milestone in the development of Australian vocations ministry and ultimately the Australian Church. Back in 1997, Australian vocation leaders representing both diocesan and religious community members, asked the executive director of National Religious Vocation Conference to be a keynote speaker at our 4th Biennial National Conference. Sister Catherine Bertrand, S.S.N.D., then NRVC's executive director, gave the keynote in Australia.

Sister Cathy's presence, and the gifts of her passion for the future of religious life, her insightful presentations, her wisdom, her inspiring one-liners, her generous self-giving, encouragement, and her promise of ongoing support, provided us with a much-needed injection of life and hope. It was also an impetus to work toward a national vocations office.

With support and encouragement from many quarters, including NRVC, Australian vocation leaders subsequently wrote a constitution and hired staff members. Catholic Vocations Ministry Australia (CVMA) thus became a more formal professional association. True to her pledge of support, Sister Cathy returned the following year. She delivered a five-day "Orientation to New Vocation Ministry" workshop in 1998 in Turrumurra with Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC. (Brother Paul, now NRVC's executive director, was then a vocation minister for his community and active in national vocation ministry.) The workshop provided us not only with insights, skills, and excellent resources, but it also facilitated networking with colleagues: kindred spirits across Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand--and the USA.

Our two organizations have continued to be in conversation with each other—visiting and exchanging resources and publications. Most recently, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC spent several days giving a workshop in Australia in 2012. I will *always* be grateful for the gift of NRVC's influence, friendship and support – for me personally and for CVMA.

*Submitted by Sister Mary Ryan, RSJ
CVMA Executive Officer 2001-2006*

The Impact on Collaboration with J.S. Paluch

The collaboration between J.S. Paluch and NRVC enjoys a productive and enriching history. Paluch staff members initially worked with the National Sisters Vocation Conference (NSVC) and the National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors (NCRVD). Then two important events occurred in 1988: The NSVC and the NCRVD became the NRVC and the national board members of NRVC and the national Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) came together for the first J.S. Paluch Vocation Seminar. This was a small gathering, including only the national boards meeting with Bishop Thomas J. Murphy and Rev. J. Cletus Kiley. The focus then, which remains the focus today, was to communicate, share resources, and work together. For the next two years, executive directors from both organizations helped plan the gatherings and served as facilitators.

Over time, this collaboration evolved from moderate initiatives to fundamental expectations. Working together moved from novel to normal. NRVC's commitment to this goal and process was key to its birth and growth. NRVC leadership has played an essential role in the planning and success of all the Paluch seminars. The collaboration grew as NRVC, NCDVD, J.S. Paluch, and Serra USA Council formed the National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) to consolidate vocation resources.

NRVC continues to be an active supporter of Paluch and World Library Publications, its music and liturgy division. At convocations, the graciousness of NRVC manifests itself to Paluch participants and exhibitors. I'm personally and professionally privileged to have shared the vision of vocation ministry and creative insights of Br. Joe Samson, Sr. Cathy Bertrand, S.S.N.D., Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., their staffs, and many NRVC national board members and regional coordinators. I congratulate all those who have helped NRVC grow in scope, skill, outreach, innovation, quality and variety of resources, and attentiveness to its members. NRVC always moves to the light, to the future. How apt the motto for the 2014 NRVC Convocation: It is good that we are here. Rise, and have no fear.

*Submitted by Dolores J. Orzel, Creative Director,
National Vocations Awareness Division, J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.*

NRVC 2014 RECOGNITION AWARD

Sister Patricia Wittberg, SC



Sister Patricia Wittberg, SC, has been a member of the Sisters of Charity, Cincinnati, OH, for 48 years. After earning a B.A. Degree in History and Secondary Education from the College of Mount Saint Joseph, Sister Pat went on to earn her M.A. Degree and Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. After brief teaching stints at Fordham University and Wooster College, Sister Pat currently is a professor of sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University in Indianapolis, IN, a position she has held for over twenty years. Beloved by her students, Sister Pat is equally inspired by them. She is recognized as a prolific author in vocation ministry because she continues to ask.

Her passion for religious life and vocation ministry, has fueled her research as well as her desire to collaborate with others who can further advance our collective learning. Sister Pat is well-respected expert in the field of the sociology of religion, culture, and community. Her work includes research on discernment, religious sisters, and generational differences. She has written or co-authored numerous articles and several books including her most recently published, *Building Strong Church Communities: A Sociological Overview* (2012) and the critically acclaimed *New Generations of Catholic Sisters: The Challenge of Diversity* (2014), which she co-authored with Sister Mary Johnson SNDdeN and Dr. Mary Gautier.

Sister Pat has served eleven years as a loyal member of congregational vocation team. A frequent collaborator and co-worker with both NRVC and Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), she chaired an NRVC committee in 2011 on the exploration of long-term volunteer programs and their potential for discernment for religious life. Her work with this committee was featured in a panel discussion she chaired at the 2012 NRVC Convocation titled "Connecting with Alumni of Volunteer Programs: Insights for Religious Congregations."

NRVC Mustard Seed Award Recipient

2014

Here I am Lord!
Michael Zak

NRVC Harvest Award Recipients

1990

The Lilly Endowment, Inc.

1992

Rev. Raymond P. Carey

1994

None

1996

Ms. Dolores Orzel

1998

Bishop John McGraith

2000

Sr. Mary Johnson, SNDdeN
Carol Schuck Scheiber
Claretian Publications

2002

National Coalition
For Church Vocations

2004

Mrs. Dorothy T. Foss
Rev. Raymond Lafontaine

2006

Serra International and
Serra USA Council

2008

TrueQuest Communications
Patrice Tuohy

2010

Catholics on Call

2012

National Federation for
Catholic Youth Ministry
Dr. Robert J McCarty

2014

Kathleen A. Mahoney

The Impact on Collaboration with the USCCB

Prior to the founding of NRVC in 1988, there existed the National Catholic Vocation Council. This umbrella group was composed of representatives of the USCCB, the two religious leadership conferences, the Knights of Columbus, the U.S. Conference of Secular Institutes, Serra International, the National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors (men), the National Sisters Vocation Conference, and the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD). The purpose of this umbrella group was to ensure the provision of resources and programs for priestly and religious vocations within the U.S. Church.

For varied reasons at the time, the members decided to dissolve the Council in 1987. Although the USCCB approved the founding of the NRVC the following year and recognized it as the official vocation conference for religious vocation directors, the agreement did not stipulate any formal association with the U.S. bishops.

In 1992 former NRVC executive director, Sister Catherine Bertrand, SSND, initiated a dialogue about more formal relations between the NRVC and the USCCB with then Bishop Robert Carlson, the chair to the new USCCB Committee on Vocations. As a result, Bishop John McRaith, bishop of Owensboro, KY, was appointed by Bishop Carlson as NRVC episcopal liaison. Bishop McRaith attended his first NRVC board meeting in the fall of 1992, and because of his positive experience with Sister Cathy and the NRVC board, Bishop McRaith recommended to the bishops that the NRVC executive director become a consultant to the Committee on Vocations. Sister Cathy attended her first committee meeting in 1993. The NRVC executive director continues to represent NRVC to the recently restructured Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.

NRVC will be forever grateful to Bishop McRaith, for his advocacy on behalf of NRVC, and for his many years of serving as the episcopal liaison to our organization. Since Bishop McRaith's retirement, NRVC has had the pleasure of working with three additional episcopal liaisons: Archbishop Gregory Aymond, archbishop of New Orleans (then bishop of Austin), Bishop William Callahan, OFM Conv., bishop of LaCrosse, and now recently appointed Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, bishop of Beaumont.

Submitted by Brother Paul Bednarzyk, CSC, NRVC Executive Director

The Impact of the Black Religious Committee

One of the strategic goals of NRVC is to educate and to raise awareness among our members about issues related to multiculturalism in our Church, especially as it applies to vocation ministry. The Black Religious Committee was established by the NRVC Board in the mid-1990s to meet the needs of all peoples of African descent. The committee was originally named in 1994 the African-American Standing Committee; however, as a way to be more inclusive of the influx of African candidates in religious life, Sister Mary McNally, O.S.F., then board liaison to the African-American Standing Committee, suggested that NRVC rename the committee to the Black Religious Committee.

The purpose and aim of this committee is to assist NRVC Vocation Directors in a respectful manner with the discernment process of black, African-American, or African candidates, to address particular interests of black religious in relationship to vocation ministry, and to identify and research those issues related to black religious vocations. The committee also helps with an education component by providing workshops at convocations and for religious congregations on how to welcome women and men candidates of African descent.

Currently the committee consists of Sister Patricia Rogers, O.P. (co-chair), Mr. Mark McGuthrie (co-chair), Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, O.S.P., Sister Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, R.S.G., Sister Chala Marie Hill, F.H.M., Sister Patricia Dual, O.P. and Friar Douglas McMillan, Conv. O.F.M. Sister Josita Colbert, S.N.D.deN. is board liaison to the committee.

As NRVC celebrates its 25th anniversary, the Black Religious Committee continues to expand its outreach to other African-American Catholic organizations to heighten the awareness of the important contributions of black religious in the history of the Church and to invite a new generation of black religious in the future.

Submitted by
Sister Josita Colbert, S.N.D.deN.
Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, O.S.P.

NRVC 2014 MUSTARD SEED AWARD

Michael Zak, *Here I am Lord*



Mr. Michael Zak is the founder and executive director of the *Here I Am Lord National Vocations Conference*. Mike currently serves as full-time Director of Youth and Families at St. Patrick's Parish in St. Charles, IL. After a twenty-five year career in real estate, Mike and his wife, Diane, answered a simple call to assist in Youth Ministry at their home parish.

This small seed that was planted nearly twenty years ago has grown exponentially and is now expanding nationally.

The *Here I Am Lord Conference* was founded in 2003 to address the needs of vocation awareness for Catholic youth. Through prayer, contemporary music, and dynamic speakers, this conference guides young people in listening and responding to their own individual call to holiness, be it marriage, single life, religious life, or the priesthood. This unique initiative, which has grown into the largest parish-based vocations conference in the United States, has been able to bring together religious sisters, brothers and priests and other lay ecclesial ministers from across the country. The conference has been presented in the Archdioceses of Chicago and Denver along with the Rockford Diocese. In March of 2015, the Joliet and Rockford Dioceses will join their efforts in the *Here I am Lord National Vocations Conference* so as to expand and unite their youth outreach and will host over 40 religious institutes. More information on the *Here I am Lord Conference* can be found at www.stpatrickparish.org/index.php?m=44

Mike has a B.A. in Business from Northern Illinois University and a Pastoral Ministry Certificate from the Archdiocese of Chicago through Loyola University at New Orleans. He and Diane reside in St. Charles, IL. where they celebrate their own vocations as parents and grandparents to three children and three grandchildren.

NRVC 2014 HARVEST AWARD

Kathleen A. Mahoney



Kathleen A. Mahoney, Ph.D., is a consultant working with foundations and nonprofit organizations in project management, strategic planning and evaluation. With degrees from the University of Toronto, the University of Notre Dame, and a doctorate in education from the University of Rochester, Kathleen is a recent past president of Porticus North America Foundation (2001-2010). Her portfolio includes work with women religious in the US. and Africa. She and her husband, John Brophy, live in Madison, CT.

Kathleen currently works with the GHR Foundation as a consultant for its Sister Support Initiative. Previously, she has held academic posts at Washington University in St. Louis, Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis, and the Lynch School of Education at Boston College where she founded the Institute for Administrators in Catholic Higher Education.

Kathleen was a Spencer Dissertation Fellow and a National Academy of Education Postdoctoral Fellow. She is the author of *Catholic Higher Education in Protestant America: The Jesuits and Harvard in the Age of the University* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003).

As a participant of the NRVC 2010 Vocation Symposium, *Moving Forward in Hope*, Kathleen encouraged the NRVC to explore further the impact of educational debt on religious vocations. In 2011 Kathleen accepted the role of project director in support of the *2012 NRVC/CARA Study on Educational Debt and Religious Vocations*. In this capacity, she chaired the study's advisory group and edited the recently published NRVC resource, "A Handbook on Educational Debt and Vocations to Religious Life". In addition, and in collaboration with NRVC and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, she also chaired a second NRVC advisory group on the exploration of establishing what is now called the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV).

The Impact of Behavioral Assessment Workshops

While a doctoral student in clinical psychology in 1978, I was invited to treat the topic of candidate assessment. The invitation came from a novice director of a women's religious community who was responsible for bringing a speaker to a gathering of her colleagues in Toronto, and thus was born the first "Behavioral Assessment" workshop in the context of vocational discernment. The whole premise of the behavioral approach was to begin to think in terms of "learnings and skills" rather than psychological traits or personality characteristics. Of course, the learnings and skills need to relate to the unique set of learnings and skills required for each particular congregation, especially as they are lived in the congregation's common life and mission. That first weekend effort was a skeletal image of the more refined workshop that stands today, but the basic principles that underscore the methodology have continued.

In the late 1980s the Executive Director of NRVC, Brother Joseph Sampson, FSC, asked whether NRVC could regularly provide that workshop for its members. Housing it with NRVC would benefit more congregations and would relieve individual groups of the burden of organizing and sponsoring such an enterprise. From that time on the professional home of the Behavioral Assessment Workshop has been with NRVC, as has been the advanced Behavioral Assessment II Workshop.

Over the years topics that reflect the issues of the time have been folded in and out of the assessment paradigm. For instance, in the '80s the pros and cons of HIV testing was a prominent issue for vocation directors. Eventually, we focused on questions about sexual orientation, diverse ecclesiologies among candidates, histories of addiction, questions about divorced and widowed candidates, second-career candidate issues, generational concerns of Gen X and the Millennials, and a variety of other issues. Behavioral Assessment, as a methodology, continues to adapt to meet the needs of NRVC members in their commitment to effective candidate assessment. It has been a great privilege to be a part of this endeavor.

Submitted by Reverend Raymond P. Carey, Ph.D.

The Impact of the Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors

Thousands of former and current NRVC members have benefited from the Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors. Building on the one-day program once offered by the former National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors of Men (NCRVDM), under the direction of James Vedro, O.S.C., NRVC initially began a two-day orientation in 1987 for vocation directors who were new to this ministry.

I was invited in 1988 by Sister Cathy Bertrand, S.S.N.D., then vocation director for the Mankato province and later Executive Director of NRVC, to be her co-presenter for a totally new, reformatted Orientation Program. This was the beginning of the famous “binder” with compiled resources to address a growing range of issues related to vocation ministry.

Five years later I left vocation work, and the late Brother Kenneth Grondin, C.F.C., assumed my role with Sister Cathy and the program quickly expanded in quality and length. Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. replaced Brother Ken in 1998 as co-presenter, and after assuming the leadership of NRVC in 2002, Brother Paul has since benefited from the professional expertise of co-presenters Sisters Susan Kidd, C.N.D., Carol Tropicano, R.S.M., and Charlene, Diorka, S.S.J. Sister Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., current NRVC Director of Member Relations and Services, now serves in that capacity.

Because no other such program at the time was being offered worldwide, over the years the NRVC Orientation Program has drawn participants from as far away as Europe, South America, Asia, Australia, and New Zealand. Three days of orientation have now evolved into five. Reflecting the needs of contemporary vocation ministry, current topics include canon law, immigration, social media, communications, professional boundaries, and self-care.

Vocation work is an ever changing ministry as is reflected in the continuing, but ever changing curriculum of the Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors.

Submitted by Father Thomas Enneking, O.C.S.

The Beginnings of the NRVC

Vocation directors had hoped for the consolidation of the religious vocation conferences for many years so that the combined resources, personnel, and energy could be focused on one mission and require only one membership. Therefore, in the spring of 1988, the interim board of directors, composed of members of the National Sisters Vocation Conference (NSVC) and the National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors (NCRVD)--together with their respective executive directors, Sharon Baudry, CSA and Jeanne Schweickert, SSSF--put the finishing touches on the structure and documentation of the new joint venture: *National Religious Vocation Conference*.

Since 1979, the now combined conferences of NSVC and NCRVD into NRVC had shared office space (at 1307 South Wabash Avenue, Suite 350 in Chicago) with the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) and the National Catholic Vocation Council (predecessor to the National Coalition for Church Vocations) in a collaborative effort to serve U.S. religious and diocesan vocation directors. All tenants had to move when the building which had been anchored by a business school closed.

In 1990 the NRVC office along with NCDVD and NCCV was relocated four blocks away to 1603 South Michigan Avenue. This building was being remodeled from a manufacturing plant into office space. It was a temporary venture until the foreseen regentrification of the neighborhood would begin, at which point the entire structure would be turned into condominiums.

The NCDVD was the first to exit in the mid-1990s when Dorothy Foss became executive director and moved their office to Raleigh, North Carolina. Then in 1997, NRVC and NCCV were invited by the Catholic Theological Union (CTU) to relocate to the first floor of their residence hall at 5420 South Cornell Avenue in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago. That cozy space served NRVC well until 2005 when the old residence hall was demolished to make way for CTU's new school building. NRVC now occupies a newly renovated space in CTU's original building at 5401 South Cornell Avenue. And that is the end of the story of NRVC's beginnings. Happy 25th Anniversary!

*Submitted by Sister Mary Ann Hamer, OSF,
former NRVC Finance coordinator*

The Impact of the Journal, HORIZON

HORIZON began 39 years ago as a modest mimeograph. The idea of a journal for vocation ministers originated with the National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors of Men—a predecessor to NRVC. *HORIZON* was originally titled *Called to Growth/Ministry*. It was produced the way everyone made low-cost copies in the 1970s: on a mimeograph.

When NRVC was born in 1988 out of a merger of two religious vocation groups, *Called to Growth/Ministry* was renamed *HORIZON*, but the focus remained the same: providing insightful and instructive articles to assist in the ministry and professional development of vocation directors.

As NRVC grew, the printing and design of *HORIZON* became more sophisticated, its readership expanded, and it received wide recognition for editorial excellence, including being honored with numerous Catholic Press Association (CPA) awards. In 2014, *HORIZON* received 6 CPA awards:

- Best essay, 1st place: “A loving gaze at religious life realities” by Sister Susan Francois, CSJP
- Best review, 2nd place: “A book that makes Catholicism seem hip” by Father Radmar Jao, SJ
- Best feature article, 2nd place “Reach out, draw in” by Father Donald Senior, CP
- General excellence, 3rd place: Editor Carol Schuck Scheiber, Page Designer Patrice Tuohy
- Best regular column, honorable mention: “Feed Your Spirit” columns by Carol Schuck Scheiber, Father Conall O’Cuinn, SJ, and Sister Melanie Svoboda, SND
- Best redesign, honorable mention: Patrice Tuohy and Carol Schuck Scheiber

With an eye to covering vocation issues in other parts of the English-speaking world, the journal recently added editorial board members from Canada, the UK, and Ireland. Looking to the future, NRVC through *HORIZON* and is committed to keeping a lively, thought-provoking journal for those dedicated to and supporting a robust future for religious life.

Submitted by Carol Schuck Scheiber, HORIZON Editor

The Impact of VISION and TrueQuest Communications

By the time the NRVC was formed in 1988, the first issue of *VISION* was already in print. In the early years of NRVC, the board contracted Chicago-based Berry Publishing to produce *VISION* on their behalf. In 1998 the NRVC board sought help from Claretian Publications, and then in 2001, they contracted TrueQuest Communications to provide publishing services.

Although the core mission of *VISION*--to offer vocation discerners a wide array of information about contemporary religious life--has not changed over the years, the world of publishing has undergone dramatic changes. In those earlier days way back in the 20th century, *VISION* magazine was laid out manually, sent to the printer, and mailed to about 25,000 addresses around the United States. Discerners interested in receiving more information about a particular religious community filled out a card in the back of the magazine, which they tore out and sent to a post office box. In about six to eight weeks, they would receive a letter from a vocation director with information about the community.

Flash forward to 2014 and *VISION* has hundreds of thousands of readers from around the world and over 300 participating religious community sponsors. The annual guide is offered in print and online digital formats. Discerners are also welcome to browse through the [VISION Vocation Network](#) website, updated daily, where they can find articles, videos, continuous posts on the calendar of events, interactive quizzes, blogs, social network feeds, and other unique features that offer up-to-date information about religious life.

And when it comes to discerners' inquiries for more information, their requests are processed instantaneously. In addition, if they are not sure what community might be right for them, they are encouraged to go through [Vocation Match](#), an interactive discernment tool developed by TrueQuest and NRVC in 2007 to help discerners sort through their diverse vocation options. With each new generation, the NRVC's *VISION* Vocation Guide is committed to being responsive to the changing needs of discerners, religious communities, and the universal church.

*Submitted by Patrice Tuohy, Executive Editor
VISION Vocation Guide*