

I am happy to invite you and other members of your religious institute to join NRVC and VISION Vocation Network at World Youth Day in Krakow this summer from July 25-31.

Similar to World Youth Days in Madrid and Rio de Janeiro, NRVC and VISION Vocation Network will sponsor a vocation space at the English Language Pavilion. Spearheaded by the Knights of Columbus, NRVC joins Canadian Salt + Light TV and Family Rosary as one of the four major partners of this key WYD venue.

As an NRVC member, you and members of your congregation *will be given at no cost* priority access to participate in the Vocation Center in the English Language Pavilion. This Center, which will be hosted by NRVC and VISION Vocation Match, will be in response to Pope Francis' call to create a "culture of encounter" within the Church. Our goal is to provide a relaxed and comfortable space for individual pilgrims or groups "to encounter" in a more personal, informal way a vibrant presence of women and men religious. The unique space we have planned will provide you with many opportunities to speak with pilgrims about their faith, hopes, dreams, and vocations—be it to marriage, religious life, or priesthood.

It is estimated that approximately 45,000 pilgrims will be coming to Krakow from the United States, and we anticipate that many more pilgrims from other English-speaking countries will come through our doors as well.

According to the recent CARA's *Women and Men Entering Religious Life: The Entrance Class of 2015*, 15 percent of the candidates/postulants who entered religious life last year attended World Youth Day. That is why we believe it is important for NRVC member communities to be represented there—and even better, to have a presence there.

As you read through the following information, I hope you would seriously consider this invitation to Krakow WYD. *Please note all travel expenses, arrangements, and registration fees will be the responsibility of each participant:*

- The contracted venue for the English Language Pavilion is centrally located outside of the center of Krakow and has a seating capacity for thousands. The space is air-conditioned and will be available from July 27-29. The doors will open at 9:00 AM.
- For security reasons, entrance to the Pavilion will be limited to officially registered WYD pilgrims and staff members only. No one will be allowed entry without proper credentials. If you are interested in participating, I would encourage you to register as a WYD pilgrim (not as a "volunteer") at your earliest convenience. Helpful information regarding WYD registration may be found at: <http://www.krakow2016.com/en/informacje-en>.
- Additionally, any professed religious desiring to participate in the Vocation Center must register with NRVC [here](#) and submit a letter from their major superior on official letterhead stating that they are religious in good standing. This document must be mailed to NRVC upon your NRVC

registration.

- NRVC is inviting you to participate in and have special access to the “culture of encounter” we are creating, at no charge. *Important reminder: All participants will be responsible for arranging their own travel to and from Krakow, their housing, and their individual World Youth Day registration. Please know that NRVC is unable to assist you with this.*
- All participating congregations are invited to bring their vocation literature with them which will be displayed by NRVC at the Vocation Center in the English-language Pavilion. Please be aware, however, that this venue is intended for encounter, engagement, and entertainment, not direct recruitment.
- U.S. citizens do not need a visa to enter Poland. If you have community members coming from other countries, please check the visa requirements at the website of the Polish embassy in their home country.
- All religious who participate in the Vocation Center are asked to dress professionally and appropriately (customary professional attire with community symbol, religious habit, or clerics).

We do hope that you will join us in Krakow this summer. Here again are links to the *required registrations*:

To register to participate in the NRVC/VISION Vocation Center, click [here](#).

To register as an official WYD pilgrim, please click [here](#).

Welcoming the world's youth is no easy task, but it certainly is an exciting and inspiring one. I look forward to seeing and working with you in Krakow. Please pray with me for the success of this collaborative, vocation effort.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C.
Executive Director



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