



Helpful Hints to present and be present within our NRVC Culture

1. We are the National Religious Vocation Conference, and we frequently use the abbreviation, NRVC. Please note, vocation is singular, not vocations.
2. We commonly identify as vocation ministers and vocation directors. We are not recruiters, marketers, or manipulators. We truly believe in God's endless call to holiness, and the countless stories of responses to God's call are both a mystery and a gift.
3. The NRVC represents the diversity of religious life. Our members are sisters, nuns, brothers, priests, friars, monks, and lay vocation directors who are single and married. Consider using these nouns in your presentation as it can be easy to default to the dominant culture of sisters, who make up 60% of our membership.
4. Our name tags use vocation titles to quickly recognize who we are. For example, a name tag will use "Brother" so that you will not assume the person in front of you is a priest. Or that every woman you meet is a sister. The title is just a starting point for conversation as an indicator of the dignity of difference, not for prestige or privilege.
5. There are over 700 religious institutes in the United States, and more than 2,000 in the world. These institutes vary in size, geographic location, charism, spirituality, and mission. Our membership includes women and men religious who are apostolic, evangelical, missionaries, monastics, cloistered, and contemplative. Because hermits and consecrated virgins are under the authority of diocesan bishops, they are not NRVC members. Each religious institute is governed by a major superior who may be called general superior, provincial, president, prior/prioress, abbot, or abbess.
6. We are professionals and we enjoy fun, yet we do not tolerate belittling behavior or jokes made at the expense of others, especially about discerners. We abide by a [Code of Ethics](#) and have public statements condemning racism, the sexual abuse scandal, and on promoting diversity. We recognize each of us is responsible for engaging in a lifelong pursuit of intercultural humility and anti-racism.
7. We are weary and discouraged when we hear that tell if we only did more, prayed more often, or wore habits, we would have more applicants. We are not in a competition; since 2020, over 1,000 women and men have entered religious life and that is a yes we all celebrate!
8. The NRVC and its members have unwavering hope: we cultivate what is possible. We recognize that the entire Church and world are changing, that religious life is not alone in shifting demographics. Vocation ministry is exactly that: a ministry that cannot count success by applications alone. Encounter, accompaniment, and invitation are key components of vocation ministry.
9. Most of all, know that the NRVC members are rooting for you! Inspire us! Encourage us! Be curious and ask us meaningful questions to ponder with one another. Let's learn together by walking humbly together! *Thank you! Gracias!*