
NRVC Profile, History, & Committees

The National Religious Vocation Conference benefits the Catholic Church in the following ways:

- Provides opportunity for professional growth and personal support for vocation directors.
- Promotes a positive and hopeful image of religious life in the Catholic Church and society.
- Serves as a national clearinghouse for information on various aspects of vocations to religious life.
- Collaborates with other national and international Catholic Church organizations on vocation awareness and promotion.
- Relates to the USSCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations.
- Facilitates regional and national meetings for its members.
- Makes available to the U.S. Church the collective experience of religious vocation ministers.
- Fosters dialogue on vocational issues with young adults, parents, and other pertinent groups within the Church.
- Creates opportunities for research, study, and exchange on issues pertaining to vocation ministry.
- Provides speakers/facilitators/materials focused on religious life for a wide variety of audiences: vocation directors, potential candidates in discernment, Church leaders, religious community members, formation personnel, and others supportive of vocation ministry.

HISTORY

The NRVC combines the vision and strengths of two previously existing vocation organizations: the National Conference of Religious Vocation Directors (NCRVD), founded in 1964; and the National Sisters Vocation Conference (NSVC), founded in 1965. In the fall of 1986, the NSCV and the NCRVD appointed a steering committee, together with their respective executive directors, Sister Sharon Baudry, CSA, and Sister Jeanne Schweickert, SSSF, to create a new organization, to prepare a new Constitution, and to prepare a transition plan. Ratification of the National Religious Vocation Conference Constitution took place in September 1987 and the organization, the NRVC, formally began on January 1, 1988.

Brother Joseph Samson, FSC, became the first NRVC executive director. Since then, NRVC has had the following executive directors: Sister Catherine Bertrand, SSND, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, and Sister Sharon Dillon, SSJ-TOSF. In April 2019, the NRVC Board voted for a team management model of leadership, announcing, "the Holy Spirit is speaking clearly, and God is calling us to embrace a move in an unexpected, courageous, and exciting new direction." The founding team members are Ms. Marge Argyelan, Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., Mrs. Maureen Cetera, and Mr. Phil Loftus. The pillars in this model are member-focused, mission-driven, accountable, and leaderful.

The NRVC has created several strategies to provide resources to promote vocations:

- 1988 + Introduced the Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors and commissioned Rev. Raymond Carey for the Behavioral Assessment workshop
- 1993 + Invited as a consulting organization to the USCCB Committee on Vocations
- 1994 + Formed the Black Religious Committee to provide advocacy and resources
- 2007 + Launched VocationMatch.com feature on our website, VocationNetwork.org
- 2008 + Ratified the Code of Ethics in Vocation Ministry
- 2009 + Ratified the Curriculum for Vocation Ministers
 - + Commissioned the first Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life with CARA
- 2010 + Held the Moving Forward in Hope Symposium to make a National Action Plan
- 2012 + Commissioned the Study on Educational Debt & Vocations to Religious Life
 - + Directed the Moving Forward in Hope: Keys to the Future process
- 2013 + Produced the Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope gatherings for vocation directors and leadership
- 2014 + Commissioned the CARA Incorporating Cultural Diversity in Religious Life Study
 - + Coordinated the Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope gathering for vocation directors and leadership
 - + Created the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (nfcrv.org)
- 2015 + Created the NRVC Misericordia Fund to assist religious institutes with financial need for membership & workshops
 - + Commissioned the Study on the Role of the Family in Nurturing Vocations to Religious Life and the Priesthood with CARA
 - + Created *Vocaciones sin Fronteras en un Mundo Cambiente* workshop with Catholic Extension for Spanish speaking Sisters from Latin America
 - + Created the Today's Catholic Sisters Symposia on four college campuses
- 2016 + Created the Vocation Ambassadors Program for vocation directors, communicators, and millennials
 - + Updated the Vocation Director Manual with over 700 online articles
 - + Updated the NRVC Curriculum for Vocation Ministers
 - + Reconfigured 14 regions into 12 borderless member areas
- 2017 + Collaborated with NFCYM to create vocation promotion events at the National Catholic Youth Conference (Inspiration Nook and Marian Chapel)
 - + Attended the Vocation Ministry and Consecrated Life: Horizons and Hopes conference sponsored by CICLSAL
- 2018 + Revised the Code of Ethics for Vocation Ministry
 - + 30th anniversary of NRVC -- over 1,000 members (31% increase since 2014)
 - + Held the first *Roots of Racism: Implications for Candidate Assessment and Integration into Vowed Communal Life*
- 2019 + Initiated a new Team Leadership Model for the NRVC management
 - + Magnified our collective digital footprint with over 50 videos on YouTube
- 2020 + Published Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life with CARA
 - + Conducted a virtual Summer Institute with 202 participants
 - + Approved an International Member Area
- 2021 + The National Offices moves from 5401 S. Cornell Ave. to 5416 S. Cornell Avenue
 - + Created Talk it Up Tuesdays for virtual member meetups
 - + First International Member Area gathering takes place virtually
- 2022 + Produced the Learn it! Love it! Live it! webinar series
 - + Revised the Code of Ethics for Vocation Ministry
 - + Created the NRVC Membership Guidebook

STRUCTURE

The organization is divided into 13 Member Areas. Members are welcome to attend any Member Area event. The leadership of each Member Area consists of two Member Area Coordinators (MAC). The National Office convenes the MACs on an annual basis. The Director of Mission Integration serves as the conduit to the Member Areas.

The National Board ensures the implementation of the NRVC goals, objectives, and policies. The National Office oversees the daily operation of the organization and is accountable to the National Board. Three members of the National Board are elected biennially to serve on the Executive Committee, (Board Chair and 2 Vice-Chairs) who serve as the NRVC Personnel Committee. The Director of Mission Integration serves as *ex-officio* to the Board and serves on the Executive Committee.

Personnel in the National Office are composed of the Director of Database Administration, Director of Mission Integration, Director of Finance and Operations, Director of Membership, and Director of Development.

Key partners include the Executive Director of the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations, the Editor of HORIZON Journal and VISION Vocation Guide, the Publisher of VISION Vocation Guide and Vocation Match, and the Director of Web Management.

The NRVC Constitutions and Bylaws are posted at www.NRVC.net

COMMITTEES

The NRVC financially sponsors standing and *ad hoc* committees with the purpose of addressing a particular interest or need regarding vocation ministry. The status and membership of each committee is determined annually by the National Board. Each standing committee has a Board appointed liaison. Presently, we have the following committees:

- African American Vocation Committee (Chair: Sr. Nicole Trahan, F.M.I.)
- Incorporating Cultural Diversity into Religious Life Committee (Chairs: Sr. Marichui Bringas, CCVI and Brother Joseph Bach, O.S.F.)
- Development Committee (Chair: Mr. Len Uhal)
- Finance Advisory Committee (Chair Br. Brian Poulin, F.M.S.)
- Governance Committee (Chair: Sr. Belinda Monahan, O.S.B.)

FINANCIAL SUPPORT BASE

The NRVC is funded through the following means:

- Membership dues
- Annual contributions of religious institutes, organizations, and individuals
- Sale of publications and other resource materials
- Convocation, Summer and Fall Institute as well as workshops
- Advertising in *Horizon* and *Vision Vocation Guide*
- Staff speaker stipends
- Convocation sponsorships
- Grants for special projects and needs

PUBLICATIONS

- Annual Report (*found at NRVC.net*)
- Catalyst (*mid-month member update*)
- Focus on Vocation Ministry (*monthly electronic newsletter*)
- HORIZON (*quarterly professional journal available in print and digital*)
- NRVC printed vocation discernment resources at nrvc.net/store
- Social media platforms: Website, Facebook, You-Tube, and Twitter
- VISION Vocation Network (VocationNetwork.org)

COMPOSITE HISTORY OF PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

Advent Days of Reflection and Renewal
Assessment of Family of Origin Issues for Candidates to Religious Life
Behavioral Assessment I and II
Calling Forth the Call: Marketing 101 for Vocation Ministry
Challenges of HIV-AIDS
Communication Skills to Promote Vocations
Crafting Authentic Community
Critical Issues in Vocation and Formation Ministry
Crossing Borders: Vocation Ministry in a Multicultural Church
Developing Intercultural Competencies in Screening and Assessment
Discerning with Candidates with Homosexual Tendencies
Discerning with the Asian-Pacific Candidate
Due Diligence in Vocation Ministry
Ethical Issues in Vocation and Formation Ministry
Finding Your Digital Balance and Reducing Social Media Stress
Inviting and Discerning with the Latino-Hispanic Candidate
Leaven: A Mentoring Program for Vocation Directors
Life Questions: Screening for Candidates
Medical Issues of Today's Candidates
Moving Forward in Hope: Men Religious and Women Religious, Keys to the Future
Older and Younger Candidate Issues
Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors
Promoting Vocations within the African-American Community
Psychological Testing and Candidate Assessment
Roots of Racism: Implications for Candidate Assessment and Integration into Vowed Life
Screening Yellow and Red Flags in Candidate Assessment
Sexual Issues of Men and Women and Their Implications for Candidate Assessment
Talk it Up Tuesdays
The Art of Accompaniment and Discernment
Tips of the Trade: How to Market Vocations for your Religious Institute
Understanding, Assessing and Fostering Psycho-Sexual Integration
Understanding and Assessing Behavioral Addictions
Vocation Minister as Spiritual Guide
Vocation Ministry and Issues of Civil, Canon and Immigration Law
Vocation Return on Investment: Grace or Grim
Web Site Design for Vocation Promotion
What Does Jesus Teach Us about Being a Man? (Retreat for men)
Young Adults, the Church, and Vocations
Young Adults: Challenges for the Future