Taking a closer look at our future

2008 Annual Report
National Religious Vocation Conference
Dear Friend of NRVC,

In preparation for the 2008 presidential election, Americans around the country examined their values and priorities, and compared them with those of our two presidential candidates, so that they would be well-informed about the country’s present challenges and their own hopes for the country’s future.

In a similar fashion, last year NRVC chose to take a closer look at our future, our challenges and our hopes so that we can be well-informed about what lies ahead. Our first priority was to launch a major study on vocations to religious life, in collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), which we did in the fall. When the results are finally released later this year, the “best practices” gleaned from this study will serve as a guide for religious institutes to develop their future, vocation strategies.

Complementing this project, the annual VISION survey from VocationMatch.com indicates a rise in the number of inquiries to religious life for the third year in a row—another hopeful sign for our future! Our Executive Board is also looking to secure the future of NRVC by identifying our major priorities for the coming three years as our previous strategic plan will be completed in 2010.

The need, the energy, and the passion to promote new membership in religious life are there. I felt it in Louisville, KY, where approximately 450 vocation ministers processed through the downtown streets raising vocation awareness. I hear it in the voices of campus, youth and young adult ministers and our many other collaborators who work with us in our mission of vocation promotion. And I see it in the hopeful faces of our young people who flock to World Youth Day and engage in a multitude of volunteer service programs.

NRVC is grateful for the generous support of our many benefactors who desire to keep the dream and the hope of religious life alive for future generations to come. Through their financial contributions and donated services, and with the help of our dedicated NRVC board and staff, we are not only taking a closer look at our future—we are building the future together for the sake of the Church and for all those who benefit from the lives and work of men and women religious everywhere.

I invite you now to take a closer look at our organization, our works, and our accomplishments. It is my prayerful wish that you would consider joining us in our vital mission of ensuring a future for the next generation who will hopefully follow their hearts by choosing to follow Jesus as religious sisters, priests and brothers.

Sincerely in Christ,

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC
Executive Director
Convocation 2008—“Called by One, Invited by Many”

Louisville, KY, was the host city for the 2008 NRVC Convocation from October 9-13. Having as our theme, “Called by One, Invited by Many,” approximately 450 vocation ministers gathered at the historic Galt House Hotel to hear keynote speakers Father Donald Senior, CP, president of Catholic Theological Union, Sister Maria Cimperman, OSU, associate professor of moral theology at Oblate School of Theology, and Father James Martin, SJ, award-winning author and associate editor of America magazine.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the Archdiocese of Louisville and to give public witness to religious life, the Convocation included a procession through the streets of downtown Louisville to the Cathedral of the Assumption where the Most Reverend Joseph E. Kurtz, Archbishop of Louisville, presided and preached at a solemn vespers service.

NRVC also acknowledged two of its members, Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB, and Sister Rose Sevenich, OSF, for their outstanding service to vocation ministry. In addition, NRVC proudly presented Patrice Tuohy and the staff of TrueQuest Communications with the Harvest Award, in recognition of their incredible creativity and expansion of VISION and VocationMatch and its many other online vocation centered features.

NRVC extends special thanks to Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, associate director, for her organization of this event and to the local planning committee whose warm welcome and southern hospitality could not be beat.

NRVC Major Research Project on Religious Vocations

NRVC has contracted with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to conduct a major research project on religious vocations in the United States. The study, which began in the spring of 2008 and will conclude later this year, is meant to separate fact from fiction regarding vocations to religious life. After surveying approximately 800 religious institutes in the United States, and almost 4,000 newer religious, the goal of this project is to identify best practices for vocation promotion and formation.

Because no research of this magnitude has been done before, we are anticipating that much attention will be given to the final data of the project. As a result, NRVC is forming a public relations committee to assist us in the promotion of the research when it is completed in the fall of 2009.

New Workshops Presented in 2008

Over 600 people participated in the various workshops offered by NRVC in 2008. Consistent with our commitment to offer quality programming to our membership, this year NRVC premiered four new workshops:
NRVC Introduces Code of Ethics and Curriculum for Vocation Ministry

As a way to provide guidance to major superiors and vocation ministers, NRVC introduced in 2008 a revised Code of Ethics for Vocation Ministry. This Code, which is value based, treats the responsibilities in vocation ministry of religious leadership, members of an institute, and the vocation director. A committee of ethicists and experts in the area of child protection was formed to produce this document.

Likewise, a Curriculum for Vocation Ministry was also developed in 2008 highlighting the subject areas for foundational preparation for vocation ministry, in addition to the ongoing professional development and renewal of the vocation minister. Both documents are now available online at www.nrvc.net under Public Documents.

International Outreach Continues

In 2008 the NRVC Executive Director attended the biennial conference of the Canadian National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (NAFVD) which was held in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The NRVC membership consisted of 56 Canadians in 2008. Of course, we value greatly the long-standing collaborative relationship we share with our friends north of the border.

In addition, the European Vocation Services (EVS) invited Brother Paul to attend their annual conference, which was held in the summer of 2008 in Porto, Portugal. The EVS consists of the directors of vocation services for the 34 European bishop conferences. Present at this conference were 98 delegates representing 22 European nations. NRVC reciprocated the invitation and was honored to have Rev. Jean-Pierre LeRoy, Coordinator of the EVS, present at the NRVC Convocation in Louisville.

Horizon Gains Further Prominence

Subscriptions to Horizon, the NRVC quarterly professional journal, continue to grow in number. Horizon was recently elected to be part of EBSCO, an international publications database used widely in libraries and research centers. With over 77,000 publications in this database, EBSCO membership will easily allow access to Horizon to research scholars and library patrons around the world.

As a convenience to NRVC members
and Horizon subscribers, a topical index for 9 years of Horizon was introduced on the NRVC website in 2008. With this new online feature, readers may now easily do a topical search for articles on a particular area of vocation ministry.

NRVC continues to be indebted to its editor, Carol Schuck-Scheiber, and the NRVC Editorial Committee for their excellent work in producing a quality professional publication.

**VISION 2008**

This year VISION Vocation Guide, the NRVC print and online vocation discernment resource published by TrueQuest Communications, launched a digital version of its print edition (digitalvocationguide.org). This new version reproduces the printed guide online with live links and provides VISION’s writers and print advertisers with global exposure. The VISION website also received a new look and several new online features were introduced, including two new blogs and a question-and-answer column by noted Catholic writer and scripture scholar Alice Camille.

VISION’s popular Vocation Match service was featured on CBS Nightly News with Katie Couric in the spring of 2008 and by the fall and the close of VISION 2008, a record 6,690 discerners had completed profiles on VocationMatch.com.

TrueQuest Communications has proven its commitment to promoting VISION through a significant investment in web advertising and print promotion in the form of bookmarks and vocation posters distributed for free throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, they also issue periodic press releases, including VISION VocationMatch.com’s Report on Trends in Religious Vocations, which always receives welcome media attention.

**Vocation Education is Broadening**

Throughout 2008 NRVC was privileged to be able to spread the good news about vocation ministry through several diverse venues this past year:

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director, was one of the keynote speakers at the Serran All-American Congress in South Bend, IN. He also addressed the bishops and major superiors of New York State, the USCCB Commission on Religious Life and Ministry and the Institute of Religious Life. Brother Paul also serves on the Church Relations Committee of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA), the Praesidium Advisory Council, and the CMSM Formation Committee.

Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, Associate Director, presented a workshop with Sister Mary Beth Kubera, DC, at the NCEA conference of Chief Administrators of Catholic Education (CACE), as well as another workshop with Patrice Tuohy at the annual NCEA Convention. Sister Charlene has also displayed for NRVC at various national conventions in addition to speaking to several religious institutes on the topic of vocation ministry.

Such outreach is important as it not only heightens people’s awareness of vocations, but it also gets the good word of NRVC out to a larger public.
My introduction to the USCCB as the executive director of the Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations began on August 1, 2008. Having been ordained in and for the Diocese of Winona, MN, a majority of my priestly ministry has been in the field of vocations and formation. I am grateful for having served as the diocesan director of vocations and seminarians, as director of spiritual formation of Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, and then as rector of the same institution. These experiences as well as serving in the parish, within our diocesan permanent deacon program, and on a number of diocesan, regional, and national boards have prepared me well for this new ministry.

Cardinal Seán O’Malley, OFM Cap, serves as the chair of the committee, which was formed in January of 2008. The committee also includes: Bishop Gregory Aymond; Bishop Earl Boyea; Bishop Michael Burbidge; Bishop William P. Callahan; Bishop Octavio Cisneros; Bishop Paul Coakley; Archbishop Basil Schott, OFM; Bishop J. Terry Steib, SVD; and Bishop Daniel Thomas. In addition, Bishop Robert Brom and Archbishop Edwin O’Brien serve as bishop-consultants to the new committee. The committee, and subsequently the secretariat, is responsible for the care of the following areas: episcopal, presbyteral, and diaconal life and ministry; consecrated life; vocations; and priestly formation. This large scope has caused the work of the committee to focus more clearly on what can be done in each of these areas on the national level. We are still going through the growing pains of the combined secretariat, but making considerable progress. The committee meets twice a year to review requests and discuss issues that have been raised. There is also a third meeting prior to the General Assembly of Bishops in November to which the committee consultants are to report on the work of the various national groups they represent and to share their concerns and insights. This first meeting in November was constructive and greatly appreciated by both the bishops and the consultants.

World Youth Day 2008 brought the work of the secretariat to Sydney, Australia, where we participated with other diocesan and religious groups in promoting ecclesial vocations to hundreds of youth. (This is certainly something for other religious groups to think about for Madrid in 2011.) The secretariat has continued to feature the “Class of” project for the twelfth year in a row, which features the newly ordained diocesan and religious priests of the United States. This makes for “good news” in both diocesan and secular papers. We will be working with NRVC to develop a similar “Class of” project for religious taking their final vows. This is an exciting new prospect and should bring to the attention of the media the different orders and the lives of the newly professed. The promotion of vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life is one of the top five priorities of the USCCB, and a task force will be implementing various initiatives in the coming two years. Our secretariat is looking forward to working with NRVC on this important endeavor. The DVD Fishers of Men has continued to be used widely in the promotion of priestly vocations, and we look forward in the years to come for further media opportunities to promote consecrated life.

Lastly in the area of vocations and formation, the final report of the Apostolic Seminary Visitation was released during National Vocation Awareness Week this year. The full report can be viewed on our website.

The staff of the secretariat also includes Fr. David Toups, STD, Associate Director, and two administrative assistants, Ms. Marna Smith and Ms. Sarah Baumgarten. We can be reached at (202) 541-3033 or clergy@usccb.org.
In August 2008 at the conclusion of the National Assembly, in a very moving prayer service, Sister Carole Shinnick, SSND, concluded her term of service as Executive Director of LCWR and I began my first term. We, at the LCWR, are grateful to Carole for her dedication and leadership of six and a half years. Her commitment to the ideals and mission of the LCWR were demonstrated daily in leadership focused on service in the context of today’s reality, yet with an ever present vigilance for the future. As Carole’s successor I have had many new learnings and lots of challenges to face during the recent months, but I have discovered that many of the situations I confronted while in elected leadership within my own province are the same that leaders of women’s congregations are dealing with even now. So while the learning curve has been steep, I have also found ways to use my own experience and skills.

Work continues to complete “Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America,” our history project begun in 2005. It debuts in Cincinnati in May 2009. During the last few months a film crew has been traveling to several locations throughout the country, interviewing women religious for videos that will be included in the exhibit. So while we have focused this project on our history in the United States, these videos demonstrate that even in this day, our lives and ministries reveal a strong commitment to our vowed life and service based on Gospel values. Upcoming showings include:

Cincinnati Museum Center
at Union Terminal in the Cincinnati History Museum
Cincinnati, Ohio
May 15, 2009 - September 7, 2009

Smithsonian-International Gallery
in the Dillon Ripley Center
Washington, DC
January - April 2010

Mississippi River Museum
Dubuque, Iowa
February - April 2011

Recently the LCWR national board reviewed the LCWR Call for 2004-2009 and noted its continued relevance for these times. Thus, the board voted to reaffirm the document and use it as a continued guide for reflection on religious life leadership in US culture today. We take this opportunity to share the Prologue of the document:

“We, the members of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, believe that God’s call is written in the signs of the time. Our foremothers and founders stepped into the chaos and the unknown in their day, trusting in God’s good guidance and great providence. In our time, we are called to do the same. Inspired by the radical call of the Gospel, led by God’s Spirit and accompanied by one another, we embrace our time as holy, our leadership as gift, and our challenges as blessings.”

While our tasks are many, we believe that with this CALL as our foundation, we will remain focused on our sacred vowed commitment and service to the people of God. We continue to stand in solidarity with one another and hope that our collaboration with the various organizations which support leaders and others in service to their communities will grow even stronger. We trust that such fidelity will bring forth new life in the midst of the chaos that surrounds us today.
“What do I do? How will I do it? And do it well?”

These are among the most anxiety-ridden questions for the man or woman who is asked by a religious institute to serve the community in one of its most important and essential roles – that of vocation director. As countless numbers of those called to vocation ministry as their mission. Namely, we owe the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) our praise and gratitude for a job well-done. We want to say thank you for their tireless commitment to support and assist individual vocation directors, as well as their respective religious institutes, in aiding others to discern the call of God in their lives. We would all be at a loss without them.

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) is especially grateful to the NRVC for its hard work and dedication to aid all religious institutes through its staff of dedicated people. Beginning, with the Executive Director, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC and Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, Associate Director and others, we want them to know that the Conference is grateful for the NRVC highlighting, fostering and cultivating a culture of vocation awareness at all levels in the Church - leadership, members, partners-in-ministry, and laity. This effort requires a level of understanding, skill and involvement of persons who are truly dedicated. They are to be congratulated.

So back to the original questioning: “What do I do? How will I do it? And do it well?” The answer can be found in the response of a grateful mayor to a group of volunteers after Hurricane Katrina, “You made their lives better, simply because you understood who they were and what they needed. And you did not wait for marching orders. You know your profession and you've made a difference.” We want to encourage all vocation directors to join, participate in, and contribute to the building-up of NRVC.

Thank you – National Religious Vocation Conference – for your service to Gospel of Christ in the Church in your important ministry on behalf of the religious institutes.
Some of the activities of CMSWR in 2008 include the following:

- **A Formators’ Workshop** was held in March 2008 at the Little Sisters of the Poor in New York. The theme was: screening candidates, ID strengths & weaknesses; appropriate boundaries, markers of maturation; principles of dialogue, Christian friendship, etc. The presenters were: Sister Marysia Weber, RSM, and Father Bernard Murphy, CFR.

- The **CMSWR Board of Directors** met in Rome, April 1-5, 2008 for their biannual meeting. The Board Members had the opportunity to meet with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. A “plenary” representation of members was present, including His Eminence Franc Cardinal Rode.

- The **CMSWR National Assembly**, with the theme, “Putting on the Mind of Christ,” was held October 8-12, 2008 at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in Belleville, IL. Cardinal Justin Rigali celebrated the opening Mass; Bishop Peter Sartain, gave the keynote address with the emphasis on religious life; Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFMCap, Sisters Marysia Weber, RSM and Mary Prudence Allen, RSM were the presenters; Bishop Edward Braxton celebrated the closing Mass. The assembly was once again opened to the sisters of the member communities. Over 200 sisters in formation were in attendance for the last two days of the Assembly.

- A book on the theology of religious life authored by various member communities of CMSWR will be published by Ave Maria Press in the spring of this year. It is titled: *The Foundations of the Religious Life: Revisiting the Vision*. The chapters include: Religious Consecration: A Particular Form of Consecrated Life; The Spousal Bond; The Threefold Response of the Vows; Communion in Community; and Mission.

- Preparations for a **Eucharistic Congress** are well underway for September 11-12, 2009. The Congress will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The theme is: *Sacrifice of Enduring Love*. Presentations will include the priesthood, religious life and married life.

With this report, the CMSWR would like to thank Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, and his staff for the tremendous work being done for religious life in the United States through NRVC. The value of the NRVC mission is of great service to the Church and to our Nation. May each be blessed in their efforts to promote the good of religious life in a world so in need of witness to the life of Jesus.
We continue to experience strong membership numbers. One hundred and sixty-four dioceses and eparchies are members. This spring, Executive Board President, Fr. Len Plazewski sent a letter to the twenty-two non-member dioceses inviting them to review the benefits of NCDVD membership and to consider becoming members.

During the past year, nearly twenty dioceses have appointed new vocation personnel. This turn-over continues to highlight the important role of the biennial Institute for Vocation Personnel and the New Vocation Director’s Workshop presented at each convention.

The 2008 annual convention was hosted by the members of Region XIII and held in Denver in late September. The event brought together over 200 diocesan vocation personnel from around the United States, as well as Canada, Mexico and Australia. We were privileged this year to have as our main speakers: His Excellency Archbishop Celestino Migliore, Apostolic Nuncio and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations; Most Reverend Michael Burbidge, Bishop of Raleigh, speaker and homilist for the morning of reflection; Mr. Curtis Martin, founder and president of Fellowship of Catholic University Students.

We are very happy that the Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations has named Bishop Michael Burbidge of Raleigh, NC as the Secretariat’s liaison to NCDVD. Bishop Burbidge has been a great friend to NCDVD and a strong promoter of vocations. We look forward to an excellent relationship with the bishop.

A major initiative for the national office this year was to review the NCDVD website and to make major structural and design changes. The new site debuted in February 2009 and is more functional, appealing and user friendly. Please visit the site and send me any comments or suggestions you may have for enhancing the site’s effectiveness.

Another significant project was completed this year with the publication of a new discernment booklet produced by NCDVD, Is Jesus Calling You to be a Catholic Priest? The booklet was authored by Fr. Tom Richter, vocations director for the diocese of Bismarck and a member of the Executive Board. Intended to be used with men in their teens and older, the booklet is a series of “lessons” which a vocation director can use to guide the man through the early stages of a vocation discernment process. The booklet was published in late September and has already sold over 45,000 copies. We are in the process of producing a Spanish version and hope to have it available by mid-summer of 2009. Information for ordering either edition can be found on www.ncdvd.org.
The National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) is your one-stop shopping center for Catholic Church vocation resources. We provide services throughout the United States and in approximately 26 foreign countries.


In 2008, NCCV released a new 2009-2010 Vocation Resource Catalog at the NRVC Convocation. Special thanks to the J. S. Paluch Company, Inc. for providing the cover art for the VRC. The colorful print of the Queen of the Saints is available for purchase in a notecard format from NCCV. There are approximately 300 resources in the VRC and 40 of these are new items, a result of collaboration with many NRVC members and numerous other organizations. Our secure website, www.nccv-vocations.org, carries the complete VRC online and we regularly post new resources.

Some of the new resources include: music CDs for all ages, Jesus A to Z, At the Name of Jesus; Blessed Art Thou; In the Footsteps of Christ Our Brother DVD; Mysteries of the Rosary and numerous multi-cultural resources. We are especially pleased to have a second grandparent vocation prayer card authored by long-time vocation promoter Mrs. Margaret Paluch.

If you have developed vocation materials, please consider marketing them through NCCV. We also carry resources on consignment. Please contact us if you have found helpful materials so we can consider making them available to others.

The annual kits for National Vocation Awareness Week, World Day for Consecrated Life, and World Day of Prayer for Vocations are available in English and Spanish in print or CD formats. Thanks to the many NRVC members who generously assist with the development of lesson plans and author homily notes.

NCCV receives financial support from sales, appeals, and grants. We also provide assistance to some parishes and schools. Funding is crucial to our success and we are constantly seeking various means to increase our income and financial support. If you have any suggestions, please contact us.

NCCV is grateful for our many collaborative relationships, especially with NRVC staff and members. We hope that our ministry of service assists you in your vocation ministry efforts.

We welcome your comments and the ways that together we can help build a culture of vocations.
It was, indeed, a pleasure to have joined the NRVC membership, Board members and staff in 2008 during the annual J. S. Paluch Seminar weekend and the NRVC Convention in Louisville. NRVC is a valued partnering organization, so opportunities to meet and to continue conversations in our mutual service to religious congregations of women and men are deeply appreciated.

The Religious Formation Conference continues to “Restructure for the Sake of Mission” – a mission at the service of our membership and religious life at large, both in terms of initial and life-long formation. Nothing less than excellence – a term coined by one of the pioneering women in the Sister Formation Conference – continues to characterize the conference’s programs and services.

This past year witnessed significant numbers at the RFC’s four programs:
- ForMission – a program for women and men appointed to formation roles in their congregations and provinces;
- Life Commitment - a program – for men and women embracing final commitment;
- We Are the Change – a week-long summer forum on the vows spread over a three year cycle;
- Orientation to Formation – for formation and vocation personnel, formative community members and leaders.

These programs continue in 2009.

Our biennial congress will take place November 12-15, 2009 in Denver. The congress theme “Called to the Mountain: Blessing and Hope” is sure to evoke courageous conversations and actions in the heart of participants. Keynote speakers are Sister Donna Markham, OP and Father Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD. Nationally known presenters, including Brother Paul Bednarczyck, CSC, well known to many of you in vocation ministry, will present a seminar during congress. We encourage you to note the Congress date and to follow the updates on RFC’s new website (www.relforcon.org).

The RFC Board, in conjunction with the national office, continues to support exploration of possibilities for collaboration in the all-important ministries of vocation discernment and initial and life-long formation in our congregations. Such exploration may well entail courageous conversations and risk-taking action as membership is called to reclaim religious life as a prophetic enterprise in the 21st century.

In closing, allow me in the name of the RFC, to reiterate my deep gratitude to all at NRVC for the many tangible ways we have experienced collaboration with you during 2008.
The National Vocations Awareness Division (NVAD) of the J.S. Paluch Company hosted the 21st annual J.S. Paluch Vocations Awareness Seminar from August 11-13, 2008, at the Embassy Suites Hotel O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois. Rev. Robin Ryan, CP, Director of Catholics On Call at Catholic Theological Union (CTU), and Ms. Shelia McLaughlin, Director of the Cardinal Joseph Bernardin Center for Theology and Ministry at CTU, conducted the seminar entitled Young Adult Catholics and Ecclesial Vocations.

Participants included Rev. James Steffes, Executive Director of the USCCB Secretariat for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, Rev. Eugene Hemrick, Director of the National Institute for the Renewal of the Priesthood, Sr. Violet Grennan, MFIC, Executive Director, Religious Formation Conference, Rev. Marty Moran, Executive Director of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association, Mr. Michael D. Wick, Executive Director, Institute on Religious Life, Mr. Matthew Robaszkiewicz from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry, Dr. Patricia Skarda, from the U.S. Conference of Secular Institutes, and the executive directors and boards of NRVC, NCDVD, and NCCV and their regional coordinators, national leaders from Serra/USA Council; and the NCEA Seminary Department Executive Committee. The Paluch Company covered all seminar, lodging, and travel expenses.

After the opening dinner invocation from Most Rev. Francis Kane, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, and a welcome from Mr. William Rafferty, JSP President, and Mrs. Mary Lou Rafferty, Publisher, Ms. Dolores Orzel, NVAD Creative Director, presented the NVAD Leadership in Vocation Ministry Award to Mr. Ed Verbeke, Executive Director of the USA Council of Serra International and NCCV Executive Board member, for his many years of service in church vocations.

The JSP 2009 Vocation: Committed to Christ and 2010 Vocation: Radiant Faith calendars continue a series to encourage vocations through brief biographies of holy men and women whose response to the gospel inspired others. Every year we receive several comments about the catechetical value of these calendars. We are pleased to feature founders of religious communities in our calendars and appreciate the assistance we receive from NRVC members and their congregations. It has been a joy to see people featured in our calendars declared venerable, beatified, and canonized.

The JSP Vocation, Religious Art, and Scenic Catholic calendars include a monthly vocation prayer. Our Stewardship: A Way of Life calendar emphasizes our responsibility for the earth and assists parishes and organizations in their stewardship efforts.

The NVAD supports vocation ministry all year through projects and sponsorships and in consultation with The Paluch Family Foundation. For more information, please go to www.jspaluch.com and click on the National Vocations Awareness and Paluch Family Foundation links.

We look forward to another year of collaboration with the NRVC staff, leadership team, board, regional coordinators, and members.
NRVC COMMITTEES

Editorial Board
Ms. Carol Schuck-Scheiber, Editor
Sister Mary Charlotte Chandler, RSCJ
Sister Carol Mucha, RSM
Father Kevin Nadolski, OSFS
Father Kenneth O'Malley, CP
Brother Arnaldo Sanchez, OSM
Father Anthony Vinson, OSB, Board Liaison

Finance Advisory Committee
Father Martin Lukas, OSFS, Chair, Board Liaison
Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director
Mr. Anthony Fleming
Mr. Albert Spenadel, NRVC Finance Coordinator
Mr. Keith Zekind

Education Committee
Sister Kathleen Skrocki, CR, Chair
Sister Mary Beth Kubera, DC, Board Liaison
Sister Lena May, SAC
Father Kevin Nadolski, OSFS
Ms. Kathy Schmitt, NCEA Representative
Brother Chris Sweeney, SC

Technology Committee
Ms. Patrice Tuohy, Chair
Mrs. Maryellen Glackin, Board Liaison
Mr. Greg Long
Mr. Curtis Long

Young Adult Committee
Sister Christine Kiley, ASCJ, Chair
Brother Jesús Alonso, CSC
Mr. Kyle Brandon
Sister Deborah Borneman, SSCM
Sister Andrea Westkamp, SMIC, Board Liaison
Father Andrew-Carl Wisdom, OP

Religious Priesthood Committee
Father Martin Lukas, OSFS, Chair and Board Liaison
Father Kevin De Prinzio, OSA
Father John Lager, OFM Cap
Father Edwin Obermiller, CSC
Father Kenneth Schnipke, CPPS
Father Brian Smail, OFM

Black Religious Committee
Sisters Patricia Rogers, OP, Chair
Sister Josita Colbert, SNDdeN, Board liaison
Sister Magdala Marie Gilbert, OSP
Sister Theresa Sue Joseph, SSF
Sister Gayle Lwanga, RGS
Sister Mary Stephen, OSP
Sister Vincent Marie Wilson, FHM
Brother Patrick Winbush, OSB

Latino-Hispanic Committee
Brother Arnaldo M. Sánchez, OSM, Chair
Mr. Jesús Abrego, La Red Representative
Dr. Carmen Cervantes, EdD, Fe y Vida Representative
Father Luis M. Madera, OSA
Sister Catalina (Mary Kay) McDonald, MSBT
Sister Sagrario Núñez, ACJ
Sister Hilda Maria Reynoso, SJS
Sister Marcy Romine, OSF, Board Liaison
Sister Carmen Torres, SHCJ

Rural Life Committee
Diana Rawlings, ASC, Chair
Mr. James Ennis, Ex. Director of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference
Sister Charlene Herinckx, SSMO
Mr. David Markes
Father Steve Pawelk, GHM
Sister Karen Salsbery, CSJ
Sister Teri Wall, OP, Board Liaison

Convocation 2008 Planning Committee
Sister Charlene Diorka, SSI, Chair
Ms. Linda Banker
Sister Cathy Bauer, OSB
Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB
Father Martin Lukas, OSFS
Father Anthony Vinson, OSB

NRVC NATIONAL BOARD
Sister Josita Colbert, SNDdeN +
Sister Patricia Donlin, RSM *
Sister Margaret Michael Gillis, FSP +
Mrs. Maryellen Glackin *
Brother Joseph Joziwak, FSC
Sister Mary Beth Kubera, DC
Father Martin Lukas, OSFS
Sister Mary McNally, OSF ++
Sister Marcy Romine, OSF
Sister Janet Ryan, SNJM ++
Father Anthony Vinson, OSB *
Sister Teri Wall, OP
Sister Andrea Westkamp, SMIC +
Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director *

* Member of Leadership team
+ Began term in fall 2008
++ Completed term in fall 2008
## Financial Report and Membership

### REVENUE
- Workshops and Programs: $259,407
- Contributions: 78,387
- Membership Dues: 98,021
- Commissions: 61,611
- Resources: 6,488
- Publications: 46,778
- Contributed Services: 78,764
- Grants: 16,250
- Investment Loss: (84,054)
- Other: 2,766

**Total Revenue** $564,418

### EXPENSES
- Personnel: $173,415
- Workshops and Programs: 161,742
- Administrative: 87,003
- Publications: 63,324
- Resources: 790
- National Board/Leadership: 29,109
- Committees: 6,974
- Grants: 36,599
- Contributed Services: 78,764

**Total Expenses** $637,720

**TOTAL INCOME** ($73,302)

### 2008 NRVC Membership
- Professional: 508
- Associate: 119
- Group Associate: 533
- Partner: 20

**TOTAL** 1,180

The total membership reflects the following groups:
- Sisters: 857
- Priests: 182
- Brothers: 85
- Deacons: 6
- Bishop: 1
- Laywomen: 31
- Laymen: 18
- International Members (representing 23 countries): 92
- Diocesan Vocations Offices: 31
- Vicars for Religious: 3
- Secular Institutes: 3

### NRVC ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF
- Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director
- Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, Associate Director
- Ms. Debbie Prieto, Administrative Assistant
- Mr. Albert Spenadel, Finance Coordinator
- Ms. Carol Schuck-Scheiber, Publications Editor (not pictured)
NRVC is grateful for the generosity of our benefactors who contribute to our organization in grants, in-kind services, and financial donations.

The following list reflects all gifts received from January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Any donation or service received after that time will be included in next year’s report. Every effort was made to acknowledge all gifts received. We regret any errors or omissions and would appreciate receiving the corrected information.

RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES

Adorers of the Blood of Christ
St. Louis, MO

Ancilla Domini Sisters
Donaldson, IN

Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Hamden, CT

Basilian Fathers
Toronto, ON

Benedictine Monks
Conception, MO

Benedictine Monks
Latrobe, PA

Benedictine Monks
Oceanside, CA

Benedictine Monks
Richardton, ND

Benedictine Monks
St. Meinrad, IN

Benedictine Monks
Weston, VT

Benedictine Sisters
Atchison, KS

Benedictine Sisters
Bismarck, ND

Benedictine Sisters
Boerne, TX

Benedictine Sisters
Bristow, VA

Benedictine Sisters
Chicago, IL

Benedictine Sisters
Ferdinand, IN

Benedictine Sisters
Fort Smith, AR

Benedictine Sisters
Mt. Angel, OR

Benedictine Sisters
Ridgely, MD

Benedictine Sisters
St. Paul, MN

Benedictine Sisters
Villa Hills, KY

Benedictine Sisters
Warren, OH

Benedictine Sisters
Watertown, SD

Benedictine Sisters
Yankton, SD

Brothers of Christian Instruction
Alfred, ME

Brothers of the Sacred Heart, New Orleans Province
New Orleans, LA

Benedictine Sisters
Chicago, IL

Benedictine Sisters
Ferdinand, IN

Christian Brothers (Brothers of Christian Schools), Midwest Province
Burr Ridge, IL

Christian Brothers (Brothers of Christian Schools), Baltimore Province
Adamstown, MD

Christian Brothers (Brothers of Christian Schools), San Francisco Province
Napa, CA

Congregation of Divine Providence
San Antonio, TX

Congregation of Holy Cross, Eastern Province of Brothers
New Rochelle, NY

Congregation of Holy Cross, Indiana Province
Notre Dame, IN

Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), Western Province
Montebello, CA

Congregation of the Mission (Vincentians), Eastern Province
Philadelphia, PA

Congregation of the Passion (The Passionists)
Chicago, IL

Congregation of the Passion (The Passionists)
South River, NJ

Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary
Honolulu, HI

Consolata Fathers (Consolata Society for Foreign Missions)
Somerset, NJ

Consolata Missionary Sisters
Belmont, MI

Contemplative Sisters Adorers of the Precious Blood
Watertown, NY

Crosier Fathers & Brothers
Phoenix, AZ

Daughters of the Heart of Mary
Holyoke, MA

Dominican Sisters
Adrian, MI

Dominican Sisters
Tacoma, WA
Dominican Sisters Congregation of St. Mary
New Orleans, LA
Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt
Blauvelt, NY
Dominican Sisters of Caldwell
Caldwell, NJ
Dominican Sisters of Chicago
Justice, IL
Dominican Sisters of Great Bend
Great Bend, KS
Dominican Sisters of San Rafael
San Rafael, CA
Dominican Sisters of Sparkill
Sparkill, NY
Dominican Sisters of Springfield
Springfield, IL
Dominican Sisters, St. Mary of the Springs
Columbus, OH
Felician Sisters, Chicago Province
Chicago, IL
Felician Sisters, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Province
Corapolis, PA
Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn
Brooklyn Heights, NY
Franciscan Friars, Assumption BVM Province
Franklin, WI
Franciscan Friars, Croation Custody of the Holy Family
Chicago, IL
Franciscan Friars, Province of St. Barbara
Sacramento, CA
Franciscan Friars, Province of St. John the Baptist
Cincinnati, OH
Franciscan Friars, Province of the Sacred Heart
St. Louis, MO
Franciscan Handmaids of Mary
New York, NY
Franciscan Missionaries of Mary
Bronx, NY
Franciscan Poor Clare Nuns
Wappingers Falls, NY
Franciscan Sisters of Allegany
St. Bonaventure, NY
Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls, MN
Little Falls, MN
Franciscan Sisters of Mary
St. Louis, MO
Franciscan Sisters of Our Lady of Perpetual Help
St. Louis, MO
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
La Crosse, WI
Franciscan Sisters of St. Paul, MN
St. Paul, MN
Franciscan Sisters of the Poor
Cincinnati, OH
Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Frankfort, IL
Holy Union Sisters
Milton, MA
Hospital Sisters of St. Francis
Springfield, IL
Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
San Antonio, TX
Maryknoll Fathers & Brothers
Maryknoll, NY
Maryknoll Sisters
Maryknoll, NY
Medical Mission Sisters
Philadelphia, PA
Mill Hill Sisters
Delmar, NY
Missionaries of St. Charles
Oak Park, IL
Missionaries of the Holy Family
St. Louis, MO
Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Cincinnati Province
Dayton, OH
Missionaries of the Sacred Heart
Aurora, IL
Jesuits (Society of Jesus), Chicago Province
Chicago, IL
Ladies of Bethany
Pittsburgh, PA
Little Brothers of St. Francis
Boston, MA
Little Company of Mary Sisters
Evergreen Park, IL
Little Portion Franciscan Sisters
Republic, MO
Marianist Province of the United States (Society of Mary)
St. Louis, MO
Marianites of Holy Cross
New Orleans, LA
Marianhill Mission Society
Dearborn Heights, MI
Marist Brothers of the Schools
Bayonne, NJ
Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Washington, DC
Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa
Winooski, VT
Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary
Bryn Mawr, PA
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (Cabrini Sisters)
New York, NY
Norbertine Fathers and Brothers
Paoli, PA
Notre Dame Sisters
Omaha, NE
Oblate Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Hubbard, OH
Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Wilmington-Philadelphia Province
Wilmington, DE
CONTRIBUTORS

Oblates of St. Francis de Sales, Toledo/Detroit Province
Toledo, OH

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Huntington, IN

Pallotine Fathers & Brothers
Milwaukee, WI

Paulist Fathers (Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle)
Jamaica Estates, NY

PIME Missionaries (Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions)
Detroit, MI

Presentation Sisters
Dubuque, IA

Redemptorists (Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer), Denver Province
Denver, CO

Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Tarrytown, NY

Religious Teachers Filippini
Morristown, NJ

Sacramentine Nuns
Scarsdale, NY

Saint Francis Mission Sisters
Wolfthor, TX

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Mankato, MN

School Sisters of Notre Dame
St. Louis, MO

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Elm Grove, WI

School Sisters of Notre Dame
Dallas, TX

School Sisters of St. Francis
Milwaukee, WI

Servants of Charity
Chelsea, MI

Servants of Mary
Kansas City, KS

Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary
Kankakee, IL

Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Saco, ME

Servites (Order of Friar Servants of Mary)
Chicago, IL

Sisters of Bon Secours
Marriottsville, MD

Sisters of Charity
Dubuque, IA

Sisters of Charity
Quincy, MA

Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Mount St. Joseph, OH

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth
Leavenworth, KS

Sisters of Charity of New York
Bronx, NY

Sisters of Charity of Ottawa
Lowell, MA

Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
Greensburg, PA

Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill
Chicago, IL

Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word
Houston, TX

Sisters of Christian Charity
Mendham, NJ

Sisters of Holy Cross
St. Laurent, Quebec, Canada

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, South Central Community
Belmont, NC

Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, South Central Community
Cincinnati, OH

Sisters of Nazareth
Los Angeles, CA

Sisters of Notre Dame
Chardon, OH

Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, U.S. Leadership
Wilmington, DE

Sisters of Our Lady of Christian Doctrine
Nyack, NY

Sisters of Providence
Holyoke, MA

Sisters of Providence
Spokane, WA

Sisters of Social Service
Buffalo, NY

Sisters of St. Casimir
Chicago, IL

Sisters of St. Francis
Dubuque, IA

Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate
Joliet, IL

Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester
Rochester, MN

Sisters of St. Francis of Savannah
Savannah, MO

Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania
Sylvania, OH

Sisters of St. Francis of the Immaculate Conception
West Peoria, IL

Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities
Syracuse, NY

Sisters of St. John the Baptist
Bronx, NY

Sisters of St. Joseph of Caronale
St. Paul, MN

Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet
Latham, NY

Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambery
West Hartford, CT

Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny
Middletown, RI

Sisters of St. Joseph of Concordia
Concordia, KS

Sisters of St. Joseph of NW, PA
Erie, PA

Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange
Orange, CA

Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace
Englewood Cliffs, NJ

Sisters of St. Joseph of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Sisters of St. Joseph of Rochester
Rochester, NY

Sisters of St. Joseph of the Third Order of St. Francis
Cleveland, OH

Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto
Toronto, ON, Canada

Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament
Bensalem, PA

Sisters of the Company of Mary Our Lady
Tustin, CA

Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Astoria, NY

Sisters of the Holy Cross
Notre Dame, IN
Sisters of the Holy Family
New Orleans, LA

Sisters of the Holy Redeemer
Huntingdon Valley, PA

Sisters of the Immaculate Conception
of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Putnam, CT

Sisters of the Incarnate Word and
Blessed Sacrament
Corpus Christi, TX

Sisters of the Living Word
Arlington Heights, IL

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
O’Fallon, MO

Sisters of the Order of
St. Basil the Great
Uniontown, PA

Sisters of the Precious Blood
Dayton, OH

Sisters of the Presentation
Aberdeen, SD

Sisters of the Presentation of Mary
Manchester, NH

Sisters of the Presentation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
New Windsor, NY

Sisters of the Presentation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary
San Francisco, CA

Sisters of the Resurrection
Castleton, NY

Sisters of the Resurrection
Chicago, IL

Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother
Oshkosh, WI

Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate
Sloatsburg, NY

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary
Immaculata, PA

Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary
Monroe, MI

Society of St. Teresa of Jesus
Covington, LA

Society of the Holy Child of Jesus
Drexel Hill, PA

Trappist Monks (Cistercian Order of
the Strict Observance)
Moncks Corner, SC

Trappist Monks (Cistercian Order of
the Strict Observance)
Peosta, IA

Trappistine Nuns (Cistercian Nuns of
the Strict Observance)
Dubuque, IA

Trinitarians (Order of the
Most Holy Trinity)
Baltimore, MD

Ursuline Sisters of Cincinnati
Cincinnati, OH

Xaverian Brothers
Baltimore, MD

DIOCESES

Most Reverend Gregory M. Aymond
Diocese of Austin
Austin, TX

Most Reverend J. Kevin Boland
Diocese of Savannah
Savannah, GA

Most Reverend Todd D. Brown
Diocese of Orange
Orange, CA

Most Reverend Alexander J. Brunett
Archdiocese of Seattle
Seattle, WA

Most Reverend Elden F. Curtiss
Archdiocese of Omaha
Omaha, NE

Most Reverend Nicholas DiMarzio
Diocese of Brooklyn
Brooklyn, NY

Most Reverend Wilton D. Gregory
Archdiocese of Atlanta
Atlanta, GA

Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes
Archdiocese of New Orleans
New Orleans, LA

Most Reverend Walter A. Hurley
Diocese of Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids, MI

Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Diocese of Arlington
Arlington, VA

Most Reverend John B. McCormack
Diocese of Manchester
Manchester, NH

Most Reverend John J. McRaith
Diocese of Owensboro
Owensboro, KY

Most Reverend William F. Murphy
Diocese of Rockville Centre
Rockville Centre, NY

Most Reverend Edwin F. O’Brien
Archdiocese of Baltimore
Baltimore, MD

Most Reverend Roger L. Schwietz OMI
Archdiocese of Anchorage
Anchorage, AK

Most Reverend Michael J. Sheridan
Diocese of Colorado Springs
Colorado Springs, CO

Most Reverend William K. Weigand
Diocese of Sacramento
Sacramento, CA

Most Reverend John Charles Wester
Diocese of Salt Lake City
Salt Lake City, UT

Most Reverend David A. Zubik
Diocese of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA

OTHER FRIENDS

Anonymous (2)

Catholic News Publishing
New Rochelle, NY

Catholic Theological Union
Chicago, IL

Center for the Study of Religious Life
Chicago, IL

Community Foundation of Louisville Depository, Inc.
Louisville, KY

idea Port, LLC
Kansas City, KN

J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.
Franklin Park, IL

National Coalition of Church Vocations
Chicago, IL

Paluch Family Foundation
Chicago, IL

Praesidium, Inc.
Arlington Heights, TX

Saint John Vianney Hospital
Downingtown, PA

Saint Meinrad School of Theology,
Office of Youth & Young Adult Formation
Saint Meinrad, IN

Ms. Carol Schuck-Scheiber
Toledo, OH

Serra Club of Louisville
Louisville, KY

Dr. Patricia Skarda, CC, Ph.D.
Easthampton, MA

TrueQuest Communications
Chicago, IL