Reaching out in new ways

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS VOCATION CONFERENCE
2006 ANNUAL REPORT
OUTREACH TO NEW GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

With the direction of the 2002 Continental Vocation Congress Pastoral Plan and our own five year strategic plan, NRVC continues to extend its outreach to various groups and organizations for the purposes of strengthening and discerning our mission. Our commitment to this mission is evidenced in the following initiatives and new relationships established this past year:

- Because of an expressed need by our members, the National Board reactivated the Rural Life Committee to explore ways of supporting rural vocation ministers and discerners.
- In August the NRVC Education Committee met with representatives of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) in Washington, D.C. In addition, they also met with the American Council on University Women (ACCU) to engage in a discussion on how to build a vocation culture on a college campus.
- Praesidium Religious Services invited the NRVC Executive Director to serve on the Religious Accreditation Advisory Council.
- At the invitation of NRVC, Bishop Blase Cupich, Chair of the Bishops' Committee on Vocations, met with the NRVC Board in May to discuss ways in which we can further our common cause of vocation invitation and discernment.
- In November the Board met with English and French Canadian vocation representatives in Montreal, Quebec, to strengthen our two countries' mutual and collaborative vocation ministry.
- In the spring the National Communicators' Network of Religious (NCNR) invited NRVC representative on to the NRVC Board's request.

To see the influence and impact of NRVC grow is exciting for the Church, and most exciting for the future of religious life.

CONVOCATION 2006
“CALLED, VOWED, BELONGING IN A NEW GENERATION”

Over 450 vocation ministry superiors, formators and young religious attended the NRVC biennial Convocation held from September 7-11 at the Regency Hotel in Irvine, CA. Titled “Called, Vowed, Belonging in a New Generation,” over 450 vocation ministry superiors, formators and young religious attended the NRVC biennial Convocation held from September 7-11 at the Regency Hotel in Irvine, CA. Titled "Called, Vowed, Belonging in a New Generation," the Convocation celebrated the commitment of religious superiors, formators and young religious to the mission of vocation ministry.

Sincerely,

Dr. Richard Yankoski, Ph.D., President

Pray for Religious Life.
Theological Union. This year the convocation concluded with a Prayer Breakfast where NCR reporter and CNN Vatican analyst, John Allen, addressed the participants on the gift of religious life to the Church and the world. Without a doubt, the energy generated by the speakers, small group discussions and renewed friendships made for a memorable experience.

NRVC also acknowledged the gifts of two of its members by presenting the NRVC Recognition Award to Sister Susan Kidd, CND, and Rev. Warren Sazama, SJ. This award is given to those NRVC members for their “outstanding contribution to vocation ministry in the Church of the United States.” In addition, Serra International and the USA Council of Serra were the recipients of the NRVC Harvest Award for their untiring support and commitment to vocation ministry.

NRVC RESPONSE TO VATICAN INSTRUCTION

In response to the Vatican Instruction on discernment with candidates for priesthood with homosexual tendencies, NRVC sponsored a full day workshop to study the document and to learn of its implications for the assessment, screening and possible formation of candidates for priesthood and religious life. NRVC was privileged to have as a presenter, Msgr. Stephen Rossetti, PhD, President and CEO of St. Luke’s Institute. Msgr. Rossetti is the author of several books and articles and was a former consultant to the USCCB Ad Hoc Committee on Child Sexual Abuse. Present at this workshop were over 100 religious and diocesan vocation, formation and seminary personnel.

RELATIONS EFFORTS

In August, Ms. Paul Waters, Senior Vice-President and Senior Partner of Fleishman-Hillard, Inc., the world’s largest international communications company, met with the NRVC Board about how to promote vocations and a more positive image about religious life in the public media. Ms. Waters, who has agreed to work with NRVC as an informal consultant, emphasized the importance of vocation directors establishing a relationship with the media for upbeat stories and coverage.

The November 20, 2006 issue of Time magazine ran an article on young women entering religious life. This article mentioned the work of the National Religious Vocation Conference as well as Vision magazine’s VocationMatch website. As a result of this article, the NRVC immediately began to investigate ways we can broaden positive media attention for religious life in the future.

NRVC Vocation Guide also introduced VocationMatch.com

In August of 2006 Vision: The Annual Religious Vocation Guide, published by TrueQuest Communications on behalf of the NRVC, launched VocationMatch.com, an online interactive discernment tool that has proven very popular among discerners (with more than 4,000 completed profiles entered online during the first nine months). Discerners welcomed the help in finding communities that would be potential good fits, and vocation directors applauded the significant increase in the quality and quantity of inquiries. This unique interactive service, using sophisticated technology similar to other online matching services used to search for colleges or mates, caught the attention of the media and was featured in a number of broadcasts and publications, including Time magazine.

HORIZON GETS A NEW LOOK

A newly redesigned HORIZON premiered this past fall. Sporting a four color cover, new interior design, advertising and glossy paper, this transition is a major upgrade to this professional journal. Special thanks to Patrice Tuohy of TrueQuest Communications for her artistic design and to Carol Schuck-Scheiber, Editor, and the NRVC Editorial Board for their continued good work in making this publication one in which all NRVC members and subscribers can be proud.

VISION VOCATION GUIDE

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49TH EUCHARISTIC

CONGRESS, June 2008

Quebec City

In October, Father Julien Gaudreault and Ms. Debra Violette, Director of Evangelization and Youth and Adult Ministry of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress, met with the NRVC Board during their meeting in Montreal. The purpose of this meeting was to engage in promoting the young adult vocation outreach which was part of the Congress program in 2008. In response, the Board shared their thoughts on how the vocation program can be supported. It was agreed that the NRVC would continue to support the vocation committee in the coming year.
Valuing your collaboration, I welcome this opportunity to provide you with an update on the work of our committee. As you know, the United States Conference of Bishops has decided on a plan which will reduce the number of bishops’ committees to seven. This plan calls for the four bishops’ committees on Vocations, Priestly Formation, and Ministry, Bishops’ Life and Consecrated Life to be joined under “The Bishops’ Committee on Vocations, Priestly Formation, and Ministry, Bishops’ Life and Consecrated Life.”

The plan calls for the committee to be reduced to seven as a result, a number of including Vocations, will be included. Each year we have released statistics of the newly ordained. In the near future, we will be publishing data on those men who have been ordained to the priesthood in 2007. These annual statistics are being compiled by CARA and will be found on the USCCB website.

The NCEA Seminary Department has invited the Bishops’ Committee on Vocations to collaborate on developing guidelines for seminary application and ongoing evaluation. This work has the promise of assisting vocation directors in their work of overseeing the seminary application process.

This year marks the fifth anniversary of the Third Continental Congress on Vocations to Ordained Ministry and Consecrated Life in North America convened by Pope John Paul II and held in Montreal, Quebec. The spirit of the Congress as well as the direction offered by the Pastoral Plan continues to be an important point of reference for promoting a vocation culture in this country. I know that you join me in asking God’s blessing on our efforts in this regard.

I have very much enjoyed serving as Chair and meeting many of your members, whose dedication to vocation work is an inspiration to us all. On behalf of the bishops of the United States, I offer a heartfelt word of appreciation for all that you do to build up the Body of Christ in this important way. You will continue to be in my prayers as I thank God for many gifts.

Leadership Conference of Women Religious

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) is the association of the leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious in the United States. The conference has more than 1,500 members, who represent about 95 percent of the 68,000 women religious in the United States. Founded in 1936, the conference assists its members to collaboratively carry out their service of leadership to further the mission of the Gospel in today’s world.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious concluded its 50th anniversary celebration in 2006 with a rousing assembly in Atlanta – Embracing the Dream: Leading with a Jubilee Heart. Keynote speaker, Joan Chittister, OSB challenged the participants to move out of the 40 years of wandering in the desert since Vatican II and to enter the Promised Land of the next era of religious life. A large number of LCWR members engaged in an inter-religious prayer service for peace at Ebenezer Baptist Church. And a panel of four leaders from the New Orleans area moved the assembly with their powerful witness of leading in a time of destruction, emptiness and disillusionment.

Having celebrated its past fifty years, LCWR now looks towards the next fifty years. The 2007 assembly in Kansas City, Missouri will develop the theme of The Promise of Tomorrow. This year’s keynote speaker will be last year’s NRVC speaker, Laurie Brink, OP. Laurie was selected precisely because she represents the future of religious life, the voice of someone in fact move into the next era.

The members of LCWR are aware that the future of our congregations and our lifestyle is in the hands of our members. In addition, the leaders of congregations of Catholic women religious recognize the need to develop a vocation culture in this country. I know that you join me in asking God’s blessing on our efforts in this regard.

LCWR thanks you for your sacrifice, your commitment, and your support. It is through your work that we are able to do your sensitive, crucial, and important ministry. Without you, the future looks far less bright and more critical. Without you, we might never know of the possibility of helping others to find the full and rich life we offer you. The future looks far less bright and more critical.

LCWR thanks you for your support and dedication. We need you and count on you.
The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) is a canonically approved organization founded in 1992, to promote religious life in the United States. Some of the many activities of CMSWR in 2006 include the following:

1. The Formators’ Workshop was held March 2-5, 2006 in Mishawaka, Indiana hosted by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. The theme was Spiritual Direction and Discernment of Spirit, Part II, given by Monsignor Thomas Caretta, RSM. Next year’s workshop will be held in Anaheim, California. The theme will be St. Ignatius’ Rules for the Discernment of Spirits and the presenter will be Father Timothy Gallagher, OMV.

2. The 15th National Assembly was held in Belleville, Illinois at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows October 6-9, 2006. There were approximately 150 women religious, new and old, from 26 religious institutes. The theme was “Strengthening the Mission: The Year of Faith.” The assembly will be: St. Ignatius’ Rules for the Discernment of Spirits and the presenter will be Father Timothy Gallagher, OMV.

3. The CMSWR House of Rome was held in Rome, Italy at the Salon B of the Vatican. The theme of this meeting was “The Spirituality of the Discernment of Spirits.” The speaker was Father John Murray, OP.

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5. The CMSWR Executive Committee met with various congregations in Rome and met their visit to Rome this past February. The meetings were very positive, and some of the topics discussed were the future of religious life and the role of the Church in the 21st century. The Executive Committee also met with the Pontifical Council of the laity in Rome, and the two organizations are considering a formal sharing of information and experiences.

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Membership in the NCDVD continues to be strong. On the eve, 169 US dioceses and eparchies. We also have 5 Canas and 1 diocese from Scotland. Membership, which includes staff from member dioceses, as well as associates and affiliates stands at 369.

This year the Board acted on the membership’s desire for the national office to have a permanent home. Many factors were present in our search. One of which was to be more proximate to the USCCB offices in Washington. During our office space, we received an offer for space and other Fr. Robert Leavitt S.S. at a seminary in Baltimore and are in the process of moving to the Seminary in Baltimore. The two years, left his position Randall Cirner, the new Executive Director and I began my responsibilities in October. My wife and I currently reside in Vero Beach, FL but will be moving to Baltimore after our Florida home is sold.

The NCDVD annual convention was hosted this year by Region VIII from September 23-28 in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Nearly 200 diocesan vocation directors and others who work in vocations attended the conference as well as representatives from the Archdiocese of Mexico City and the Bishop’s Conference of Scotland. It was a pleasure to have Br. Paul Bednarczyk with us.

The theme of this year’s conference was The Family: Seedbed of Vocations.

- A daily time for Eucharistic Adoration was introduced for the first time at a conference and received an overwhelming positive response.
- Workshops included: Implementing The Fishers of Men Program; Understanding the Culture of Young Adults; Assessing Sexual History and Maturity; and a New Vocations Directors Workshop.

Our biennial Institute for new vocation directors was held February 11-17 at Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corner, WI. Over 30 diocesan vocation directors attended, including one from Guam (from Guam to Wisconsin in February was quite a shock). Most Reverend Blase Cupich, Chairman of the Bishops Committee on Vocations, gave an excellent opening address titled Vocations Work Under the New Pontificate.

NCDVD is honored to work with you in this part of the Lord’s vineyard. Please be assured of our prayers and support in all that you do.

NCCV is the largest not-for-profit publisher and distributor of Catholic Church vocation resources in the United States. We are your one-stop shopping center for vocation materials.

Partner members of NCCV are the: National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., Priests of the Sacred Heart, Rogationist Fathers, and the USA Council of Serra International.

In 2006, NCCV debuted a new 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 A Celebration of Saints is available at www.wlpmusic.com. There are over 300 resources in the VRC and 30+ of these are new items, a result of collaboration with many NRVC members. Our secure website, www.nccv-vocations.org, carries the complete VRC online and we regularly post new materials. Some of the new resources include: Ready? Set... God! (high school discernment); What is My Vocation? (junior high vocation curriculum); Exploring the Charism Menu of Religious Life (requested by popular demand and authored by NRVC member Sue Torgersen, CSJ), prayer cards, ribbons, wristbands and books. Presently NCCV is working with NRVC members to create a Grandparent Vocation Prayer card and a School Vocation Cross Program. If you have developed vocation materials, please consider marketing them through NCCV. We also carry items on consignment that coordinate with vocation awareness. We welcome your ideas for new resources.

The National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) is the largest not-for-profit publisher and distributor of Catholic Church vocation resources in the United States. We are your one-stop shopping center for vocation materials.

NCCV receives financial support from sales, appeals, and grants. We provide assistance to some parishes and schools. Funding is crucial to our ministry and we are constantly seeking new means to increase our income.

NCCV is grateful for our collaborative relationships, especially with the NRVC staff and members. We welcome your suggestions and comments.
Recently I had the privilege of being present at a religious institute’s orientation for new min-
isters. The presenters’ job of explaining what they do through the offices of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) and the Religious Formation Conference (RFC) became apparent. The focus of NRVC is distinct from that of each organization’s professional preparation for those in formation/incorporation services to many individuals. As the presentation continued, glove services of each organization became apparent. The RFC’s National Vocations Conference will be held November 8-11, 2007 in Pittsburgh, PA. This year’s theme, “Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire – Impulsada por el Espíritu a ser Fuego” will lead participants into a theological reflection process, with plenary sessions on three topics: Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire in Religious Life; Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire in the Church; Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire in the World. Congress speakers include David Blanchard, OCarm, Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD, and Carol Zinn, SSJ.

At the 2006 fall Board meeting, the RFC Board developed a vision statement to guide the organization for the next five years; at its spring 2007 meeting, the Board will strategize actions that will accompany the vision statement. This plan, as was presented at the Congress in November, will be implemented through all the services of RFC.

On a personal note, this is the last time I will write this report for the Religious Formation Conference, since my ministry at RFC will conclude in December 2007. One of the great joys of working at RFC has been the natural and easy and fruitful collaboration with NRVC. Working both with Cathy Bertrand, SSND and Paul Bednarczyk, CSC has enhanced my own ministry and I am exceedingly appreciative of the professional, comprehensive, and visionary work of the National Religious Vocation Conference. Thank you all for such rich companionship on the journey.

The National Vocations Awareness Division of the J.S. Paluch Company continues its focus on promotion through our annual conference for the members of both organizations. The RFC’s National Congress will be held November 8-11, 2007 in Pittsburgh, PA. This year’s theme, “Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire – Impulsada por el Espíritu a ser Fuego” will lead participants into a theological reflection process, with plenary sessions on three topics: Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire in Religious Life; Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire in the Church; Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire in the World. Congress speakers include David Blanchard, OCarm, Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD, and Carol Zinn, SSJ.

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Sister Helena Im, OP, Chair
Rev. Arnold M. Abelardo, CMF
Rev. Francisco Hung Le, OP
Rev. Alfonso Kim, MM
Sister Raphaela Lee, OP
Sister Maria Nguyen, OSB
Sister Avelina Raiwaleta, SMSM
Sister Janet Nguyen, SNJM, Board Liaison
Sister Trang Truong, DC

Latino-Hispanic Committee
Sister Carmen Teresa Fernandez, IHM, Co-chair
Rev. Mark Padrez, OP, Co-chair
Rev. Clemente Barrón, CP, Board Liaison
Sister Illeana Fernandez, CSJ
Sister Verónica Mendez, RCD
Sister Priscilla Moreno, RSM

Ethics Committee
Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director
Dr. Monica Applewhite, President of Presidium, Inc.
Sister Gilmary Bauer, RSM, Ethicist and LCWR representative
Rev. Thomas Nairn, OFM, Professor of Catholic Ethics, CTU
Ms. Jennifer Reed, Executive Director, Pathways to Hope
Sister Terri Wall, OP, Board Liaison

NRVC NATIONAL BOARD
Rev. Clemente Barrón, CP, San Antonio, TX
Sister Renée Daigle, MSC, New Orleans, LA (completed term in fall of 2006)
Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, Philadelphia, PA* (completed term in fall of 2006)
Rev. Ronald Hoye, CM, Chicago, IL (began term in fall of 2006)
Brother Joseph Jozwiak, FSC, Lincroft, NJ (began term in fall of 2006)
Sister Anita Louise Lowe, OSB, Ferdinand, IN*
Rev. Marty Lukas, OSFS, Toledo, OH
Sister Mary McNally, OFS, Tampa, FL*
Rev. Mark Padrez, OP, Oakland, CA
Sister Janet Ryan, SNJM, Portland, OR
Sister Teri Wall, OP, Denver, CO
Sister Mary Walsh, CSJ, Brentwood, NY
Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director, non-voting member*

Membership Dues* 4,389
Commissions 45,960
Resources 12,958
Publications* 13,257
Contributed Services 55,736
Unrealized Investment Income 35,302
Grants 6,200
Other 6,889

TOTAL $567,874

EXPENSES
Personnel $184,219
Workshops/Convocation/Programs 274,215
Administrative 95,639
Publications 7,388
Resources 13,124
National Board/Leadership Meetings 1,418

TOTAL $657,646

* Due to our change in membership year, all monies received in 2006 for the 2007 membership dues and 2007 Horizon subscriptions have been deferred to the 2007 fiscal year and will be reflected in next year’s report.

NRVC ADM
International (founded Diocesan Vicars for Religious & Secular Institute)

2006 MEMBERSHIP
TOTAL 1287
Professional 312
Associate 44
Priests 61
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