



## NRVC CONVOCATION 2016 WORKSHOPS

### Thursday Workshops, October 27

#### **Crafting authentic Community**

**SISTER RUTH ANNE HARKINS, I.H.M.**

Newer members say they are attracted to their religious institute by the spirituality, community life, and the example of the members. How do we animate and renew these factors in our religious institutes? Explore the meaning of joyfully choosing a life of radical interdependence as we search together for new and deeper ways to live our vowed life. Topics will include: dialogue, scripture, and theological foundations for community, communication skills, conflict management skills, and the necessary components of mutuality and accountability for radical interdependence.

*Sister Ruth Anne Harkins, I.H.M., is a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Scranton. She served as the fulltime Vocation Director for her religious congregation for 10 years, from 2002-12, and often speaks to women's religious groups about community living. She holds a Doctorate of Ministry in Adult Spiritual Formation from the Catholic University of America, where she currently serves as the Associate Campus Minister for Graduate and Professional Studies. She has also done graduate work at Neumann University and LaSalle University.*

#### **Tips of the trade: How to market vocations for your religious institute**

**Ms. CYNTHIA KROHN**

In an ever-expanding world of communications, media, messaging, and new technology, it is not easy to get your message heard. This practical workshop serves as a primer on marketing communications, and specifically developing a clear vision and messaging strategy. Social media, communication skills, and other key tools will be discussed so as to assist you in developing a clear marketing and communications plan for your religious institute.

*Ms. Cynthia Krohn has more than 25 years of experience in the communications, public relations, advertising, and marketing fields. She is currently the manager of marketing and communications, as well as the company spokesperson and media liaison, for Christian Brothers Services. She holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in broadcast journalism/communications and has worked for government agencies, three Fortune 50 companies, and several nonprofit organizations. Cynthia is a regular speaker on crisis communication for nonprofits and creating*

communications plans that work. She is a member of the Public Relations Society of America and the American Marketing Association.

## **Understanding and assessing behavioral addictions**

**FATHER DAVID SONGY, O.F.M. CAP.**

Research suggests that harmful behaviors such as excessive internet use, gambling, eating, or spending can be as addictive as alcohol or drugs. This workshop will explore the behavioral addiction cycle and identify the warning signs of addictions commonly seen in religious communities. The presentation includes strategies for intervention, screening for admission, discussion of treatment efficacy, and recommendations for assessing and supporting individuals struggling with a behavioral addiction and who may aspire to religious life.

***Father David Songy, O.F.M. Cap.,** is President of St. Luke Institute. He also was director of counseling services at the Pontifical North American College in Rome and held several positions at St. John Vianney Theological Seminary. Father David, a clinical psychologist, holds a Doctorate in Psychology from the University of Denver and a Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Teresianum, the Pontifical Institute of Spirituality in Rome. He holds a Master's Degree in pastoral counseling from Loyola College and theology degrees from Aquinas Institute. He gives workshops on topics such as formation in priestly celibacy, cybersex addiction, and the integration of psychological and spiritual treatment.*

## **Vocation ministry and the issues of civil, canon, and immigration law**

**MRS. DONNA MILLER AND MR. MIGUEL NARANJO**

This workshop explores the laws that often pertain to vocation ministry including: privacy issues, financial practices, assessment policies and record keeping; internal vs. external forum; special issues regarding older, widowed and divorced candidates; readmission and community transfers. The afternoon session will focus on immigration law as it applies to foreign-born candidates and will include a clarification of key immigration terms; documentation and tracking immigration status, long-term immigration planning; and legal responsibilities of the religious institute and the candidate.

***Mrs. Donna Miller, JD, JCL** has been Associate Director at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) since May of 2006. She earned her law degree from Catholic University of America. After practicing in the civil courts for six years, she earned her (JCL) canon law degree from St. Paul University in Ottawa in 2004. Prior to her work at RCRI, Donna was a diocesan canonical advisor and marriage tribunal judge.*

***Mr. Miguel Naranjo** is the Director of the Religious Immigration Services (RIS) section of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), which assists dioceses and religious communities in bringing international priests and religious into the U.S. to serve the Church. He joined CLINIC in 2006 and has been practicing immigration law since 2002. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law.*

## Saturday Workshops, October 29

### Building intercultural competencies

**Ms. MARILYN SANTOS**

We, though many, are one people in Christ". (Romans 12:5) The Church is enriched by the diversity of her members, which make up one body in Christ. Diversity not only points to the demographic transformation in the United States, but also to how it is integral to the identity and mission of the Church. This two-part workshop will explore the challenges of intercultural outreach and ministry and will provide a compass for acquiring ministerial, intercultural competence. In addition, it will provide a current snapshot of the Latino demographics and its implications for the Church today.

***Ms. Marilyn Santos** is the Director of Youth and Young Adult Outreach in the National Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States. She has held leadership positions in youth, young adult, and cultural diversity ministries in the Archdiocese of Atlanta and the Diocese of Brooklyn. A former President of La Red and the National Catholic Network de Pastoral Juvenil Hispana, she has a Master of Arts in Religious Education with a concentration in Latino Ministry from Fordham University and is currently matriculated at Fordham University's Graduate School of Religion Doctoral Program. She serves as a consultant for the USCCB Secretariat on Laity, Marriage, Family Life & Youth. Marilyn was a catechetical speaker at World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney and has been a presenter at various venues including the National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry (NCCYM), the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), and the National Council of Catholic Hispanic Ministry Conference (NCCHM).*

### Engaging a new generation: A vision for reaching young Catholics

**MR. FRANK MERCADANTE**

Current research documents the decreasing church participation and affiliation of our younger generations. This workshop will examine generational, epistemological, and communication changes impacting and influencing the perspectives of the Millennial and new Homeland generations. Moreover, it will clarify what is behind their disconnect with the Church and what vocation ministers can do to re-connect, re-engage, and more effectively cultivate teen discipleship while promoting vocation discernment among our younger generations.

***Mr. Frank Mercadante** is the founder and executive director of Cultivation Ministries. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Christian education from Wheaton College and a Master of Pastoral Studies from Loyola University of Chicago. Frank has trained thousands of youth ministry leaders in over 100 dioceses across the United States and internationally. In 2008, he was recognized by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM) for his outstanding work as a trainer. He has written numerous youth ministry resources, including Growing Teen Disciples, Positively Dangerous, Make It Real, and Engaging a New Generation.*

## **Keeping the faith: Be calm and carry on**

**FATHER JOSEPH NASSAL, C.P.P.S.**

Keeping the faith in vocation ministry can be a fragile gift. Thomas Merton noted that we are given time “not to keep a faith we once had, but to achieve a faith we need now.” What kind and quality of faith do vocation ministers need today? Is it a faith that leaves little room for doubt, or does it provide ample space to give others the benefit of doubt? This workshop will help vocation ministers discover the joy in reclaiming our charisms and living from the core truths that continue to inform and shape our sense of call while avoiding unrealistic expectations.

***Father Joseph Nassal, C.P.P.S.** is the Provincial Director of the Kansas City Province of the Precious Blood Missionaries. He is the author of numerous books, including *The Conspiracy of Compassion*, *and Rest Stops for the Soul*, *Premeditated Mercy*, *Moments of Truth*, *and Stations of the Crib*. *Father Joe* has been engaged in retreat, renewal and reconciliation ministry for nearly 30 years. Ordained in 1982, *Father Joe* has also served in parish, justice and peace ministry along with formation, vocation, and leadership for his congregation.*

## **Welcomed in; seated at the table; invited to the dance**

**SISTER MERCEDES J. McCANN, R.S.M.**

How do we attract and sustain vocations among people who are often 40 years younger than the median age of our professed members? Sisters of Mercy founder Catherine McAuley wrote to the members of her newly formed community, “Dance every evening.” She offered this suggestion for members to get to know one another first in a playful manner and then, more deeply. In this workshop we will explore how we can encourage that playfulness among our more seasoned members and how might we facilitate the deeper conversations among members of all ages.

***Sister Mercedes McCann, R.S.M.**, holds a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Seton Hall University and an M.A. in Psychology from Marywood University. A former formation minister, *Sister Mercedes* has extensive experience facilitating small and large groups for religious communities including Chapters and Assemblies as well as speaking to groups of religious in the United States, Latin America and the Pacific Rim on various topics concerning religious life. She currently serves as a primary therapist at the Saint John Vianney Center (SJVC), where she provides multi-dimensional psychotherapy to clergy and men and women religious.*