



SOUTHWEST MEMBER AREA

January 2018

“BUILD THAT WALL!” “BUILD THAT WALL!”

This infamous chant became a rallying cry during the 2016 presidential election. Its meaning was clear: immigrants and the undocumented are not welcome in this country.

For those who live and minister in the Southwest Member Area of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) and the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD) these words have a significant – and often personal – impact. Not only do some of our sisters and brothers and their families and friends come from these targeted groups, but so do those who are currently discerning a vocation to our religious communities.

NRVC, in conjunction with the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC), offers NRVC and NCDVD members a unique opportunity to study and reflect on this timely issue as it relates to our vocation ministry.

“The Roots of Racism: Implications for Candidate Assessment and Integration into Vowed Communal Life” will take place at MACC in San Antonio, TX from February 18-21, 2018. Please go to <https://nrv.net/274/publication/4171/article/15976-the-roots-of-racism-implications-for-candidate-assessment-and-integration-into-vowed-communal-life> for information and to register.

Since many of us have already expressed an interest in participating in this event, we have scheduled our annual business meeting to coincide with the workshop. NRVC/NCDVD members will gather at 2pm on Wednesday, February 21, at MACC. Sr. Deborah Borneman, SSCM, NRVC Director of Member Relations and Services, will address the group at this time. In addition, we invite you to send us your suggestions for agenda items. As part of the process, we ask you to reflect on your experience as a vocation minister, namely 1) What have been your blessings and challenges as a vocation minister over the past year? 2) What new or best practices have you learned and used that might help others in their ministry? and 3) What topics and presenters might be good to consider for our 2019 gathering?

To participate, please follow these instructions:

- 1) Register for the workshop via the NRVC website if you plan to attend that event.
- 2) Use the attached form to register for the additional NRVC/NCDVD Southwest Member Area annual meeting. Indicate if you
 - a) will be participating in the full workshop and/or Member Area meeting.
 - b) are able to provide housing to an NRVC/NCDVD member to help defray costs.
 - c) are in need of a partial scholarship (limited availability, for members only).

- d) will have lunch at MACC on Wednesday, February 21, if you will only attend the Member Area meeting (additional \$10 charge).
- e) will need an additional night at MACC on Wednesday, February 21, if you will be traveling the next day (additional \$100 charge).
- f) will have dinner with Southwest NRVC members at a local restaurant on Wednesday evening, February 21. There is no cost for this event for members!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us via email or phone.

As a final note, don't forget to renew your NRVC membership for 2018 – and you will save money for this workshop!

Thank you for your commitment to vocation ministry in our Church. Blessings in this New Year!

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