A time of transition & growth
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR MEMBERS

VOCATION AMBASSADORS PROGRAM  In June of 2016 and 2017, NRVC sponsored a new workshop in South Bend, Indiana called “Share the Sacred,” for 21 teams of vocation ambassadors. The teams of three included a millennial, communications professional and vocation director. Participants learned communications strategies and tactics to create a strategic plan to promote religious life. By taking part, all vocation ambassador teams committed to 100 hours of additional work to promote vocations to religious life. This program was funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant.

CONVOCATION  The 2016 convocation was held in Overland Park, Kansas, October 27-31 with over 300 participants from the United States and seven other countries. With a theme of “Awakened by the Spirit: Called to Discipleship,” this gathering brought together vocation directors, leaders, and others involved in inviting a new generation to religious life. Keynote presenters included Ms. Sherry Weddle of the Catherine Siena Institute, Father Kevin O’Brien, S.J. of the Jesuit School of Theology, Santa Clara University, and Father Thomas Rosica, C.S.B. of Salt + Light TV and the Holy See Press Office. For the first time, NRVC held a livestreamed panel of young discerners and newer members. The livestream, funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, was hosted by Deacon Pedro Guevara-Mann of Salt + Light TV. Also at Convocation, NRVC voted on restructuring its 14 regions to 12 Member Areas.

MEMBER AREA COORDINATOR GATHERINGS  In September 2016 and 2017, NRVC member area coordinators met in Chicago for prayer, professional development, and updates from the NRVC Board and staff.

RESOURCES AND WEBSITE CONTENT

• In 2016, NRVC created a new resource entitled “Vocation Culture: Reflection to Action” to help women’s congregations in diverse settings evaluate and strengthen their internal vocation culture. These questions were written by women for women and are based on eight critical needs identified by the Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope participants. NRVC is grateful to the GHR Foundation for underwriting this project. This resource is available for complimentary download for members and for purchase.

• A Bibliography of over 50 books on Vocation, Discernment and Religious Life.

• Updated Member Directory that includes website and social media platforms

• Updated Curriculum document for the professional preparation and continuing education of vocation ministers.
In 2016 and 2017, the NRVC journal, HORIZON, continued its tradition of excellence. The Catholic Press Association recognized HORIZON with five editorial awards in 2016 and one in 2017, ranging from best feature article to best review section to best essay.

In keeping with its commitment to helping communities navigate intercultural issues, HORIZON’s coverage included stories on intercultural communal life and assessing cross-cultural candidates. In honor of the 2016 Year of Mercy, HORIZON published a special edition mercy and vocation. Other editions examined assessment, leadership, communal life, discipleship, vows, and more.

To make it easier for readers to search and access its extensive online archives, in 2016 HORIZON created an online library searchable by topic. Now readers may easily find articles since 1998 on dozens of topics.

VOCATION GUIDES

NRVC’s VISION Vocation Guide continued to be the most comprehensive resource available to those considering religious life. It gave special attention to the Year of Mercy in its 2017 edition (released during the Year of Mercy), and VISION had a presence, along with NRVC staff, at the Mercy Center in Kraków for the 2016 World Youth Day.

To better meet the needs of Spanish-speaking discerners, editions released in 2016 and 2017 both included a special section in Spanish, with particular emphasis on Hispanic culture and people in religious life. VISION received multiple awards for editorial excellence in 2016 and 2017 for both its print and online coverage. The Catholic Press Association recognized VISION’s online blog “Questions Catholics Ask” in 2016, and in 2017 it granted VISION awards for best publicatio, best article, and best columnist.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

• In 2016, NRVC’s two main publications, HORIZON and VISION; together received seven national honors for editorial excellence. Thank you to the talented writers, photographers, and editors at TrueQuest Communications who produce these periodicals and to the NRVC editorial board members who provide creative input for HORIZON.

• In 2017, VISION was recognized with three awards and HORIZON was recognized as the best professional and special interest magazine. Congratulations to all our editors, designers, and writers who create and contribute, including: Patrice Tuohy, Jennifer Tomshack, Anne Marie O’Kelley, and Carol Schuck Schellhaas.

• NRVC honored the following people and organizations for their outstanding contributions to vocation ministry at its 2016 Convocation: « Harvest Award: Catholic Volunteer Network » Outstanding Recognition Award: Sisters Adrienne Kaufmann, O.S.B.; Lynn Levo, C.S.J.; and Patricia Twohill, O.P. « The Mustard Seed Award: Dubuque Area Vocation Association.»

• 2016, at the annual J.S. Paluch Seminar in Chicago, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. received the Paluch Family Foundation Vocation Award in honor of his 14 years as NRVC executive director.

• In 2017, the J.S. Paluch Company’s National Vocation Awareness Division awarded Brother Ronald Hingle, S.C., NRVC Board chair, the Leadership in Vocation Ministry Award at its 30th annual J.S. Paluch Vocation Seminar. Each year the National Vocations Awareness Division (NVAD) of the J.S. Paluch Company gives an award to a person who has made an outstanding contribution to vocation ministry.

• In 2016, the NRVC Board provided Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. with a lifetime membership to NRVC and then in 2017, provided Miss Dolores Orzel with a lifetime membership to NRVC for their outstanding long-term contributions to NRVC.

VISION Vocation Guide and VocationNetwork.org

NRVC’s VISION Vocation Guide and VocationNetwork.org continued their tradition of excellence. Thank you to the talented writers, photographers, and editors at TrueQuest Communications who produce these periodicals and to the NRVC editorial board members who provide creative input for HORIZON.

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National Collaboration

NRVC regularly participates in and presents at the conference of national organizations to cultivate relationships and awareness so that a culture of vocations can be nurtured throughout the Catholic Church.

• National Brothers Symposium: More than 200 people representing 32 religious institutes gathered for a National Brothers Symposium at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana on March 25, 2017. NRVC member, Brother John Mark Falkenhain, O.S.B. was the keynote speaker. The program was based on the Vatican document “Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church.” The symposium was sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the National Religious Vocation Conference, the Religious Brothers Conference, the Religious Formation Conference, and the University of Notre Dame. Sister Deborah Borneman, S.S.C.M. represented NRVC at this event.

• An inaugural Religious Brothers Day was celebrated May 1, 2017 from a collaborative effort of the Brothers Think Tank, made up of members from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Religious Brothers Conference, National Religious Vocation Conference, and the Religious Formation Conference. Sister Deborah Borneman, S.S.C.M. served on this planning committee.

• NRVC collaborated with National Catholic Sisters Week celebrated annually March 8-14. In 2016, NRVC sent the Religious Life: Absolutely Millennial! DVD to 50 college campuses across the United States. In 2017, NRVC collaborated with the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life, Communicators for Women Religious, Giving Voice, and the Religious Formation Conference, to present a “Publicity Blitz and Glitz” and communal prayer service at CTU. A mini-grant from National Catholic Sisters Week through the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation enabled these organizations to purchase promotional items.

• Mark Teresi and Maureen Cetera represented NRVC at the annual Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRD) in St. Louis, October-November 2017.

• Sister Deborah Borneman, S.S.C.M. and Maureen Cetera attended the National Catholic Youth Conference in November 2017. Under its theme “Called – Llamados,” over 20,000 high school teens, parents, youth ministers, and NRVC numbers celebrated faith and discipleship and sponsored the Inspiration Nook and Marian Chapel. NRVC members representing 50 religious institutes participated. Sister Debbie presented the workshop “How do I recognize God’s voice?” Sister Ana Gonzalez, an apostolic novice with Dominican Sisters of Peace and NFCRV recipient, led morning prayer in Lucas Oil Stadium. NRVC member, Brother John Mark Falkenhain, O.S.B. with monks from Saint Meinrad Archabbey led participants in Compline in the Lucas Oil Stadium. NRVC members were invited to lead the candlelight procession for morning prayer and the closing Mass. NRVC’s participation was funded through a Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant.

• Carol Scheiber and Sr. Deborah Borneman, S.S.C.M. represented NRVC at the annual Communicators for Women Religious conference at Niagara Falls. Carol was honored for 10 years of service with CWR.

• Other conferences attended by NRVC staff included: Convocation of Leaders: The Joy of the Gospel in America; Conference of Major Superiors of Men; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Religious Formation Congress; Catholics on Call Partners Conference; National Catholic Conference on Youth Ministry; National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministries; GHR Convening on the Study of International Sisters; and USC and UCLA Conrad N. Hilton roundtable discussion. Also involved were USCCB, CMSWR, LCWR, NCDVD, NRVC, CCMA, and FOCUS as well as Texas A&M, Yale, Michigan State and USC.

International Collaboration

• International Meeting on Consecrated Life in Rome, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., attended this conference sponsored by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL). Jan 28- to Feb. 2, 2016. Gathering under the theme of “Consecrated life in unity,” more than 5,000 men and women religious came from all corners of the globe to celebrate with Pope Francis the closing of the Year of Consecrated Life. Brother Paul’s participation was funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant.

• World Youth Day: More than 1 million young pilgrims from around the world descended on Kraków, Poland July 25-31, 2016 for World Youth Day. NRVC members, board, and staff as

Banners of Polish saints for 2016 World Youth Day.
NRVC staff and board members at the Mercy Centre "Vocation Kavana" at the 2016 World Youth Day in Krakow.

well as VISION staff were present at the Mercy Centre. The Mercy Centre, which took more than two years to plan, was a collaborative effort of the Knights of Columbus, Canadian Salt + Light TV, Holy Cross Family Ministries, and NRVC. TrustQuest Communications was commissioned by the group to create a series of banners of Polish saints to line the walkway to the Vocation Cafe hosted by NRVC. NRVC’s participation was funded through a Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant.

- Vocations Ireland: Sister Deborah Borneman, S.S.C.M. presented the “Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors” to more than 50 participants in Ireland, May 8-12, 2017. This collaborative work was funded by Vocations Ireland through a grant with the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The workshop is part of a larger Irish effort to provide assessment skills and professional development to vocations teams.

- International Vocation Ministry Conference in Rome Sister Sharon Dillon, S.S.J.-T.O.S.F., 2017 NRVC Executive Director, Patrice Tuohy, VISION Publisher, and Phil Loftus, VISION Marketing consultant, to a tour of the Salt + Light studio and an afternoon’s discussion with Salt + Light personnel, including news anchor Noel Ocol, who interviewed the NRVC/VISION team for “Perspectives Daily.”

**COMMITMENT TO INTERCULTURALITY**

NRVC’s commitment to interculturality and diversity was evidence by the following initiatives:

- In June 2016, NRVC hosted a meeting of church leaders in Baltimore to discuss cultural diversity in religious life using the 2014 NRVC-CARA study on the topic. The day was facilitated by Sister Teresa Maya, CCVI, general superior of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Participants included NRVC board members and representatives from the leadership conferences. Other participants included Father Ralph O’Donnell from the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations; Sr. Ellen Dauver, S.C. from the Religious Formation Conference, Sister Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN.; Dr. Arturo Chavez, president and CEO of the Mexican American Catholic College; and Father David Songy, O.F.M.Cap. president of Saint Luke Institute. This gathering was funded through the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation grant.

- In conjunction with a 2017 CARA/Trinity Washington University Study on International Sisters in the United States, Dr. Arturo Chavez, president of the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) asked for collaboration to write a reflection guide for religious communities to better negotiate intercultural issues. Underwritten by the GHR Foundation, collaborators included: NRVC, International Union of Superiors General; Asociación de Hermanas Latinas Missioneras en América; Leadership Conference of Women Religious; National Conference of Vicars for Religious; Religious Formation Conference.

**NRVC OFFICE EMPLOYEES**

- NRVC welcomed Maureen Cetera in August 2016 as its Director of Finance and Human Resources.
- After 14 years as NRVC’s executive director, Brother Paul Bednarz, C.S.C. was called to leadership for the Congregation of Holy Cross in September 2016.
- In June 2017, NRVC welcomed Sister Sharon Dillon, S.S.J.-T.O.S.F. as executive director for a one-year term.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

In response to the 2016 Year of Mercy, NRVC established the Misericordia Scholarship Fund for helping religious communities in financial need with membership and workshop fees. Through the assistance of generous donors, the fund provided 41 religious institutes $20,570 in scholarships in 2016, and in 2017, 32 religious institutes received $16,165.
Finance Director’s Report

Investments under management with Christian Brothers Investment Services grow 10% from 12/31/2015 to $635,127 at 12/31/2016, the increase includes an unrestricted bequest of $25,000 received from Dr. Pat Skarda. As of 12/31/2017, the Dr. Pat Skarda Bequest Fund now totals $702,112.

In 2016, $374,675 in restricted net assets were released from restriction as the NRVC incurred expenses to satisfy the purpose specified in the Hilton grant. TrueQuest Communications of $35,958 is not classified in 2016 Publications and resources expense, but rather in 2015. In-kind donations from TrueQuest Communications. In-kind donations from TrueQuest Communications are included with temporarily restricted contributions in 2016, and temporarily restricted membership revenue in 2017 workshops and programs netted $8,701,707 in 2016, a Convocation year. Workshops and Programs netted $13,928 in 2017, a non-convocation year.

Salaries and benefit expense remained about even from 2016 to 2017; netted $13,928 in 2017, a non-convocation year.

Net assets released from restriction as of 12/31/2017 total $702,112.

NRVC is privileged to collaborate and partner with several Church organizations in their promotion of consecrated religious life. Their support is integral to our mission and helps us to sustain the vocation culture we celebrate.

Major Collaborating Organizations

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)
Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICSAI)
Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR)
J. S. Paluch Co., National Vocation Awareness Division
Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR)
National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDV)
Religious Brothers Conference (RBC)
Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI)
Religious Formation Conference (RFC)
USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations

Other Collaborating Organizations

A Nun’s Life Ministry
Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA)
Catholic Theological Union
Catholic Volunteer Network
Catholics on Call
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA)
Center for the Study of Consecrated Life
Communicators for Women Religious (CWR)
Giving Voice
Hispanic Women Religious
Institute for Religious Formation
National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry

International Vocation Organizations

Catholic Vocation Ministry Australia (CvMA)
Catholic Vocations Projects (Compass, U.K.)
Congregational Leaders Conference Aotearoa, New Zealand (CLCANZ)
European Vocations Services (EVS)
German Bishops’ Conference for Clergy and Consecrated Life
International Union of Superiors General (UISG)
National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (Canada)
National Service for the Evangelization of Youth and for Vocations, French Bishops’ Conference (France)
Office of Vocations, Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales
Religious Leadership Conference, South Pacific Islands
Union of Superiors General (USG)
Union of the European Conferences of Major Superiors (UCESM)
Vocations Ireland

In 2017 Brother Paul Bednarzcyk, C.S.C., received the Paluch Family Foundation Vocation Award from Diocese of Orléans (left), creative director of the Vocation Awareness Division of the J.S. Paluch Company, and from company owners Bill and Mary Lou Rafferty in honor of his years of service, including his 14 years as Executive Director of NRVC.
NRVC is grateful for the generosity of our benefactors who contribute to our organization in grants, in-kind contributions, and financial donations. The following list reflects all gifts received from Jan. 1, 2016 to Dec. 31, 2017. Any donation or service received after that time will be included in the 2018 gift report. Every effort was made to acknowledge all gifts received. We regret any errors or omissions and would appreciate receiving the corrected information.

ANNUAL GIVING

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Sister Mary Margaret
Sister Marilyn L. Lamping
Sister Mary Margaret
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lyons
Mr. Robert A. Lambert
Sister Raymond.L.
Mr. Charles Kerchoff
Sister Carolyn Madden, R.S.M.
Ms. Ann Magee
Father Roc Majella

2016 Convocation Sponsorships

Catholic Health Association
Catholic Theological Union
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.
Christian Brothers Services
Dominican Sisters of Peace
Holy Cross Brothers,
Monsignor Province
J.S. Paluch
Marinists
Marillac Center
Missionaries of the Precious Blood
NRVC Heartland Member Area
PRaesidium, Inc.
Presence Health

2016-17 NRVC ANNUAL REPORT

CONTRIBUTORS
MISSION OF THE NRVC

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is a professional organization of vocation ministers that presents religious life as a viable option in the Catholic Church. NRVC promotes vocation awareness, invitation, and discernment to life as a religious sister, brother, or priest. NRVC reflects all forms of religious life and provides educational opportunities, resources, and other supportive services for spiritual, professional, and personal growth.

NRVC GOAL #1: The NRVC proclaims a positive and hopeful image of religious life in the Church and society, while affirming the call to holiness of each person.

NRVC GOAL #2: The NRVC provides education, resources, networking, and support to its members and others involved in vocation work.

NRVC GOAL #3: The NRVC promotes dialogue among national organizations concerned with Church vocations, in particular to religious life.

NRVC GOAL #4: The NRVC recognizes and values the diversity within our church and strives to be inclusive of this diversity in all of its endeavors and programs.

NRVC GOAL #5: The NRVC fosters dialogue on vocational issues with a variety of church organizations with special emphasis on those who serve young adults and parents.

NRVC GOAL #6: The Executive Director, staff, and board of the NRVC ensure that the administrative responsibilities of the organization support and facilitate the purpose and mission of the organization.

Participants in the 2017 Vocation Ambassadors program are ready to spread the word about religious life.