

NRVC – Heartland Member Area Annual Meeting
Wednesday, April 3-5, 2017
Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2017

Members arrived between 3:00 and 5:00 PM. Following dinner, the member area coordinators welcomed everyone to the annual meeting in Schuyler. Everyone went around the table and introduced themselves and we reviewed the schedule for the next couple of days. We prayed together and had a social after prayer.

Tuesday, April 4, 2017

Following breakfast and Morning Prayer, we began our conference with the theme “Effective Collaboration between Vocation and Campus Ministers.” Our presenters for the morning conference were Srs. Maribeth Wentzlaff, OSB and Clarice Korger, OSB from Yankton, SD. Their presentation was entitled “Vocations and Campus Ministry: A Pentecost Partnership.” Here are some key points from their presentation:

- Main focus: Journey with your baptismal Call
- Ministry is unique on all campuses
 - Catholic Campuses—may be the focus of the college campus
 - Public universities—Newman Centers: students seek out the center
- A review of the history of campus ministry from the 1880s through the 1990s and into today. *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*: Bring the faith into the lives of the students—the main role of campus ministry.
- Campus Ministry is essential...not an option, it’s necessary
- Have Dreams: Think in, on, around, under, and outside the box. You are only limited by your limitations.
- There is a common vision—it takes two, both the campus minister and the vocation director...each have their own view point...develop a relationship...get to know each other. When have an event on the campus, bring food, bring promo items and visit the website to know the mission of the campus ministry office before you arrive.
- Campus ministry programs are about service, education and praise & worship.
- There are best practices...see the power point presentation slides.

Following lunch, the afternoon presentation consisted of three FOCUS Missionaries from the University of Nebraska at Omaha talking about FOCUS and their experiences on college campuses. The three presenters were Alex Pandolfo, Elizabeth Philipps and Dana Grenfell. They gave a history of how FOCUS got its start. They shared the mission can be summed as: “To know Christ Jesus and to fulfill His great commission.” Their presentation followed three key points attached to three particular scripture references:

- Divine Intimacy – John 17:3
- Authentic Friendship – 1 Theo. 2:8
- Spiritual Multiplication – Mt. 28:18; 2 Tim. 2:2; and John 15:8

They said their ministry on college campuses includes:

- Prayer

- Bible Study
- Discipleship
- Retreats
- Conferences
- Upper Room
- Prayer Teams
- Mission Trips

Following the days conferences, the group participated in Evening Prayer and liturgy with the OSB community at the retreat center and then went out to dinner as a group in Columbus, Nebraska at a wonderful small-town restaurant.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017

The business meeting followed breakfast and Morning Prayer. Here is a summary of the agenda items discussed during the business meeting:

1. Convocation Thank You

Lori Bengé thanked everyone for helping to make the Convocation back in October a success. Everyone pitched in to help when needed. Sr. Debbie Borneman also echoed this gratitude and described members having “abundant generosity.” Debbie mentioned Fr. Timothy Armbruster as having helped significantly with liturgies and she also appreciated Len Uhal’s and Sr. Rita Cameron’s assistance as member area coordinators. She noted the success of the Convocation was in part due to “your hard work.”

2. Financial Report

Len Uhal gave the financial report for the Heartland Member Area. He distributed a report from the NRVC office noting the transactions for all of 2016. Transactions on the report showed income and expenses for all of last year, including annual meeting in Dubuque, polo shirts for the Convocation and donations to the Misericordia Fund and as a Pearl Level sponsor for the Convocation. The ending balance for the member area as of Dec. 31, 2016 was \$2,242. Len reported that we collected \$2,570 for this year’s business meeting in Schuyler. Expenses are not yet known for this event since the invoice from the retreat center will be forthcoming. Len noted that NRVC approved the member area request for a subsidy/grant to cover the expenses for the speakers. We should break fairly even on our meeting.

3. Heartland Member Area Co-Coordination

Lori noted that Sr. Rita Cameron is no longer in vocation ministry and is no longer a co-coordinator for the member area. She noted she was elected as the formally second co-coordinator along with Len Uhal; however, Sr. Barb Freemeyer is also “in the wings” assisting Len and Lori. Lori invited all Heartland members to contact the coordinators if there is anything we can do to assist you—“we are here to serve you.” During the discussion of the coordinators, Len asked if it would be appropriate to send Rita Cameron a card and a small gift in gratitude for her service as Member Area Coordinator. The members agreed to send a card with a \$50 gift card to a local DBQ restaurant. Len will take care of this.

4. NRVC Update

Sr. Debbie Borneman gave an update from the NRVC National Office

- Debbie talked generally of giving of ourselves to others...and being doubly blessed. People have offered things to NRVC and are in turn offered to all—sharing the wealth. She shared a video entitled “Learn to fall in love with what you do.” While there are incredible challenges, there are incredible joys. She noted that there is a spirit with NRVC members...we should invite others to join...encouraging others to be around others who love their vocation and ministry.
- Debbie thanked the member area coordinators for their leadership...they are very helpful in disseminating information to members.
- Debbie publicly thanked the NRVC staff—they are very committed and have been doing very well for seven months without an executive director or an assistant. She noted that the staff meets every day for prayer and that they pray for members by name—so contact the office with your prayer needs.
- Debbie reviewed membership stats, including there are 877 current members and her goal is to add at least 22 new members to be at 899 by the end of the year. She noted that the Misericordia Fund gave out \$9,765 last year to 20 different religious institutes.
- Debbie reviewed the workshops for the coming year with the Summer Institute July 10-25 and the Fall Institute October 11-21. Contact the NRVC Office for more information or visit the website.
- Debbie noted the Vocation Ambassador program is June 9-12...there are still openings for teams of three to attend.
- Debbie noted the NRVC office has several updated resources for sale. Visit the website or call the office for more info.
- Debbie noted the next Convocation is November 1-5, 2018 in Buffalo, NY. The theme is: Walk with me; Encounter, Accompany and Invitation. She encouraged people to stay at the Convocation hotel...NRVC needs to meet its room reservations in order to qualify for free conference room rentals and bonuses.
- Debbie noted there is a study on International Sisters from CARA posted on the website as well as resources on Canon Law.
- Debbie gave an update on NCYC. She noted that NRVC will sponsor the “Inspiration Nook” again this year and possibly the chapel. However, there will be no teams this year—members will register as volunteers with the Archdiocese and you will get a volunteer t-shirt. There is no fee to be a volunteer. You can be a volunteer and also have a booth. You will need to have VIRTUS training or other training for the protection of children. More information will be available in a month or two.
- Debbie announced that Sr. Sharon Dillon is the new NRVC Executive Director. Welcome!

5. Set Date and Location for the next Meeting

We agreed to meet in Kansas City next year around the first weekend in April, pending Easter. Sr. Barbara Smith and Sr. Maria Victoria Cutaia agreed to be coordinators for the

annual meeting. They will look into where to meet and possible dates. We will send a Doodle Scheduler to everyone to determine when the meeting will take place.

6. Share the Wealth – Open forum to discuss Best Practice

- Members in St. Louis noted they have good collaboration in the area, including with the Archdiocese representative and the local Serra Club. They have had two discernment events for religious women. Something new they are trying is to attend the NCEA Conference that is coming up next month. This is a collaborative effort with different congregations and they will have a booth at the conference.
- The Omaha area members noted having 250 kids at a 6th grade vocation awareness day at the retreat center in Schuyler and also about 1000 6th graders at an event in Omaha.
- The Dubuque area members noted they continue to collaborate with area communities and write articles for the Arch newspaper, are sponsoring a national speaker for the 4th time, continue with the Dubuque's Got Sisters program, and were invited by the Arch Office to give input on the upcoming Synod on youth and vocations. The local Serra Club also helps support some of the DAVA events.
- The Kansas area members reports:
 - More Achison OSBs are helping the vocation team...more members are getting involved in supporting vocation ministry.
 - In Clyde, the OSBs there would like to collaborate more with others— participation in social media networking is a good thing.
 - In Concordia, the CSJs are working as a community team and also work closely with the formation team.