

**Mid Atlantic Member Area Meeting**  
**National Religious Vocation Conference**

Monday October 7, 2019 10:00-3:00 SNDdeN Office, 305 Cable Street, Baltimore, MD 21210

Present: Srs. Barbara Bartlett SHCJ, Susanne Bunn MHSH, Frances Carol OSFS, Josita Colbert SNDdeN, Regina Hlavac DC, Judy Long OSB, Jo-el McLaughlin OSB, Molia Sieh SNJM, Carol Ries SNJM, Mindy Welding IHM

Upon arrival we were welcomed by our hostess Josita SNDdeN. There were refreshments shared as greetings were extended. A history of the property was given as there were many questions about its beginnings.

PRAYER 10:10

The Theme of the prayer was "Autumn Reflection" which was led by Barbara Bartlett. Participants shared their reflections orally and created a chain of links with words summarizing them. This was placed in the center of our meeting table throughout the day beside a spray of autumn decorations and a burning candle.

GUEST SPEAKER / TOPIC 10:25

Sr. Michelle Loisel DC was introduced and her background shared. Before her entrance into her congregation Michelle was a lay missionary who served for some years in Burkina Faso, India, and Iran before finally entering while in Beirut. She has always been an advocate for women which finally led her to serve as Director for seven years at Dawn's Place, a safe house for trafficked women which is located in the Philadelphia area. She now serves at the Human Trafficking and Migration Office of the Daughters of Charity in Baltimore. Michelle spoke to us on many facets of Human Trafficking with a view to its impact on vocation ministry. What follows are among the points which were made during her time with us.

It is of value to study the what, how, and who of Human Trafficking.

36 countries are now concerned with/more aware of Trafficking.

The average trafficked person in the US is an African-American child 13-14 years old though persons of all ages have been enslaved.

The National Hotline is 888 3737 888 which is operated by Polaris.

Trafficking is 66% sex, domestic 5.3%, and labor 28.7% in the US. Around the world there are 45.8m people enslaved in 167 countries. 67% are in forced labor.

The dynamic of supply and demand is operative in trafficking.

This question should be asked of each of us: do I contribute to modern slavery?

Vulnerable persons are the targets of trafficking and affected by poverty, corruption, weak rule of law, disasters, and globalization

The trafficked face many traumatic experiences and do everything to survive.

Q and A

Those who may consider entering may wonder what will be different in religious life from the social aspect of a faith community, and the ministry with and for others. They may want to be like Jesus, be radical, and serve as ambassadors of mercy and compassion. Prayer is essential to the life.

LUNCH @12:45

Those present enjoyed a lovely lunch together in the dining area beside the meeting room.

FINAL SESSION

The spreadsheet of NRVC Members was shown to us. Those present were to update their information on it. A paper was distributed on which birthdays and anniversaries of the participants were to be written. The next meeting dates were mentioned:

**March 2nd (may be changed to 9th, the final decision will be communicated) at the Carmelite Monastery in Baltimore, May 4-5 Bon Secours, Marriottsville.**

Regina spoke briefly about the Summer Institute in Chicago which she attended. She recommended any which may be offered in future: Best Practices, Media, Ethics, Behavioral Assessment. The Database Administrator, Marge at the NRVC Office is a good resource if there are questions about these. Release forms were passed to members for their signatures. These regard permission to have pictures put in media.

Regina shared a forthcoming trip to Rome because of her place on a Vincentian Task Force. She and another participant will give a presentation to the international gathering of persons from the 150 organizations which share the Vincentian Spirit. Regina will be having a "Come and See" October 25-27. At the end of October Mindy will have a "Life Choices" workshop in Scranton. Susanne told us about sharing information about the NRVC at a sale where she was offering items for purchase. Mention was made of a Parish Anniversary of 150 Years. A question arose about whether there were any inter- novitiate programs and Christopher Irr, the Xaverian Vocation Director, was suggested as a person who could help with the answer to this. A member spoke about the matter of not sharing vocation information/programs/etc. among congregations. She was advised to speak to the person about whom she is concerned to express her disagreement with this behavior. A discussion followed including possible "Tours of Communities, a "Nun Run", and Sr. Mindy's mention of a "Cycling with Sisters" in Baltimore in 2020. Nothing definitive was said about any of these yet.

Sister Frances Carol left the meeting early as her own sister Susan Louise, belonging to the same Congregation, phoned to tell her of a medical procedure she was to have. Prayers are asked for Sr. Susan at this time.

A brief verbal evaluation took place.

Sr. Michelle's presentation was mentioned as very good and the hospitality all received from Sr. Josita very gracious.

The next NRVC Board Meeting will be November 4-8, 2019. The Next Convocation will be in 2020 (October 30-November 2) with the theme: "2020 Vision: Focus on Hope" in Spokane, Washington.