



NRVC

National Religious
Vocation Conference

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

**Taking bold steps
to ensure the future
of religious life**



National Fund
for Catholic
Religious Vocations

NFCRV.org Established by the National Religious Vocation Conference

Taking bold steps to ensure the future of religious life



Dear Friend of NRVC,

Like many of the heroic men and women who founded our religious institutes over the centuries, my own Founder, Blessed Basil Moreau was not afraid to take risks or make bold decisions to ensure the mission of the Congregation of Holy Cross. In response to an invitation from *Propaganda Fide*, in 1853 he sent Holy Cross priests, brothers, and sisters to East Bengal to establish the Church's first foundation. Whereas other congregations refused because of the area's dire poverty and difficult climate, Father Moreau said yes. While these early missionaries faced disease, natural disasters, and even death, Holy Cross remained and today hundreds of Bangladeshi Holy Cross religious continue the legacy of Father Moreau by serving a thriving Church today in parishes and various educational institutions.

Sometimes bold decisions are needed to ensure a future. Faced with the rapidly changing demographics of religious life, NRVC's mission became all the more essential. As we prepared to celebrate the 25th anniversary of NRVC, our board recognized that bold steps were needed to ensure our organization's viability so that we may have a future for religious life. So, with the financial help of various foundations, we:

- Restructured the administration of NRVC and hired additional personnel to serve our expanding services;
- Revised our constitutions to meet the needs of a changing reality;
- Began a process to revise our current regional configuration;
- Expanded and improved the services of VISION and its accompanying websites;
- Established the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV) to assist religious institutes in welcoming candidates with educational debt.

While we have served our membership well for the past 25 years, I am confident that we are much better equipped today to serve our members more effectively for the next 25 years.

None of this would have been accomplished, however, without your faithful support and encouragement of our efforts. Jubilees are times for thanksgiving, for all that was, is, and will be. As we close this year's 25th jubilee celebration, let us give thanks for one another, for our benefactors, for the grace of our vocations, and for the surprises that await us in the future.

Happy Anniversary NRVC!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bro. Paul Bednarczyk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C.
Executive Director

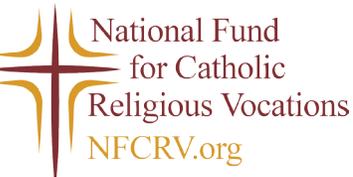
2014 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



The National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV)

As a result of the 2012 NRVC/CARA Study on the Impact of Educational Debt on Religious Vocations, NRVC has proudly established the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV). The goal of this Fund is to ameliorate the impediment of student debt on religious vocations. Only NRVC membership may apply for a grant

on behalf of a worthy candidate for their institute. The inaugural Board of Directors held its first meeting in November and hired Mr. Mark Teresi as its first Director and elected



Brother Ronald, Hingle, S.C., as the Board Chair. Cardinal Seán O'Malley, O.F.M.Cap, Archbishop of Boston, serves as the Honorary Chair.

NRVC is grateful to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation for a \$2.55 million grant to capitalize the Fund and to the GHR Foundation for nearly \$195,000 in start-up funding. It is hoped that this Fund will increase the number of candidates coming to religious life by 10 percent in ten years.

NRVC reorganization and expansion

In response to recommendations from a 2012 internal audit by American City Bureau (ACB) and the Strategic Priorities & Management Plan undertaken by NRVC, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation provided NRVC with \$2 million in funding for an ambitious three-year reorganization and programs/projects expansion plan which included the following:

- An increase in staff from three to seven positions to support the increasingly important value

NRVC staff, from left: Julie Durkin Montague, Carol Schuck Scheiber, Debbie Prieto, Br. Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Sr. Debbie Borneman, and Justin Hurtado.



NRVC offers to the Church.

- A direct marketing and development campaign to provide for the organization's future sustainability.
- The production of resources for the 2015 Year of Consecrated Life,
- NRVC's hosting of a "vocation café" at the 2016 World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland,
- An improved and upgraded redesign of VISION Vocation Network's website,
- A lay Vocation Ambassador program,
- The convening of experts in media and communications to define a national communications strategy and office for religious vocations.
- The undertaking of a study on the influence of the family in nurturing vocations to the religious life and diocesan priesthood;
- The sponsorship of an international conference of leaders of vocation centers in the developed world.

NRVC/CARA Study: Incorporating Multicultural Diversity in Religious Life



A compendium video to the NRVC/CARA Study on Incorporating Cultural Diversity in Religious Life was introduced at Convocation.

With generous funding from an anonymous foundation, NRVC commissioned the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to conduct a study of the recruitment and integration of multicultural candidates into religious life. The goal of the research was to provide information that will help religious communities reach out to ethnically diverse candidates and provide a welcoming environment for all of their members. In collaboration with an NRVC advisory committee, CARA developed a questionnaire for major superiors of religious institutes. CARA



2014 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



Regional coordinators gathered to look at proposed bylaw changes and provide member feedback to the NRVC staff.

also held focus groups with culturally diverse men and women in formation. The complete report, *Incorporating Multicultural Diversity in Religious Life: A Report for the National Religious Vocation Conference*, and other related resources can be found on the NRVC website.

Regional coordinators meeting

NRVC's 14 Regions were well-represented at the Regional Coordinators meeting held in September in Chicago. The meeting was an ideal opportunity for the coordinators to network and to discuss the commonalities and differences in their regions. The agenda included an update on the NRVC staff reorganization, the proposed regional reconfiguration, the establishment of the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV), and the upcoming NRVC Convocation. A special thank you to Brother Ronald Hingle, S.C., for moderating the discussion, Sister Michele Vincent Fisher, C.S.F.N., for facilitating, and Sister Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., for her organization of the gathering.



NRVC Jubilee Year Convocation

Over 330 vocation directors, collaborators, and other vocation personnel attended the 25th Jubilee-Year NRVC Convocation, held November 6-10 at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare Hotel. Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, Papal Nuncio to the United States, welcomed the participants and thanked them for being messengers of the Lord's invitation.

Keynote speakers Father Bernhard Eckerstorfer, O.S.B., Sister Colleen Mary Mallon, O.P., and Sister Theresa Rickard, O.P. called on participants to rise and give witness to the transfiguration God desires for their reli-

gious lives. Dr. Mary Gautier, Senior Research Associate at the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, presented the results of the NRVC/CARA study on incorporating cultural diversity in religious life, which was followed by a panel of young, culturally diverse women and men religious. Master of Ceremonies Clarence Gilyard, actor, director, and author, emphasized that the deep, committed intercession of religious communities transforms lives, including his own.

At the Region meetings, members reviewed and discussed proposed regional restructuring plans presented by NRVC Board members. Members also approved proposed changes to the NRVC Constitution and By-Laws.

Former NRVC Board members, employees, and special friends of NRVC were guests at the final Mass and Jubilee banquet. The Mass included the first public performance by the University of Notre Dame Folk Choir of *Wake the World*, the NRVC-commissioned hymn in celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life, and composed by the choir's director, Steven Warner

Father Anthony Vinson, O.S.B., former NRVC board member, and Sister Patricia Wittberg, S.C., professor of sociology at Indiana University-Purdue University, were honored with the NRVC 2014 Recognition Award. Kathleen A. Mahoney, Ph.D., recent past president of Porticus North American Foundation and consultant to the GHR Foundation, received the NRVC 2014 Harvest Award. Mike Zak, founder and executive director of the Here I am Lord National Vocations Conference, was the inaugural recipient of the NRVC Mustard Seed Award.



Men religious at liturgy during their gathering at the Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center in Houston to plan for the future and develop strategies to attract new members..

Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope

Following the success of the Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope workshop in December 2013, an additional workshop, funded by an anonymous donor, was held in

2014 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



January 2014 at the Holy Name Passionist Retreat Center in Houston. Vocation directors and the major superiors of their communities attended the workshop together and left with concrete ideas on how to better understand the current vocation context, to assess their own needs in regard to vocation ministry, and to begin planning action to further new membership. Participants received a “Culture of Vocations Assessment Tool” to help them and their institutes examine and address issues that attract or repel new members. In September the Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope final report was published on the NRVC website.

Next steps in hope

As a follow-up to the Women Religious Moving Forward in Hope program, representatives from 33 women religious communities met in Chicago in February to explore further steps to foster vocations to religious life. They identified resources, programs, and processes that women’s institutes need to attract and retain new, vowed memberships. These suggestions were given to the NRVC board for their review and action. NRVC is grateful to the GHR Foundation for supporting this program.

International connections

This year NRVC continued to expand its international outreach in several ways:

- Executive Director Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. was one of the keynote speakers at the National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (NAVFD) held in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. His talk was titled “Moving Forward in Hope: A Moment of Grace and Opportunity.”

Sister Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M. was the keynote speaker at the Vocations Ireland Summer Seminar.



- NRVC and VISION forged closer ties with French efforts to promote vocations during a meeting in Paris in April. Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. and VISION Executive Editor Patrice Tuohy met in Paris with Sister Nathalie Becquart, Xav., director of the Office for Youth Evangelization and Vocations for the Conférence des Évêques de France (the French Bishops’ Conference), and Dom Jean-Pierre Longeat, O.S.B., president of CORREF, the French Conference for Major Superiors.

- At the invitation of the Knights of Columbus, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. traveled with a small delegation to Krakow, Poland, for planning meetings in May in prepara-



Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Patrice Tuohy, Sister Nathalie Becquart, Xav., and Dom Jean-Pierre Longeat, O.S.B. met at the French Bishops’s Conference in February.

tion for World Youth Day 2016. NRVC and VISION Vocation Network will partner with the Knights in providing a meeting center for English-speaking pilgrims.

- As a member of its Advisory Board, and in response to the recent establishment of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. joined a delegation from Praesidium, Inc. to meet with Vatican officials in Rome on the subject of child protection. Meetings were held with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and the Gregorian University Center for Child Protection.
- Br. Paul also represented NRVC at the annual conference of the European Vocation Service (EVS), held in Warsaw.
- Sister Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., NRVC Director of Member Relations and Services, was the keynote speaker at the Vocations Ireland Summer Seminar held in May near Dublin, Ireland. More than 100 Irish vocation directors heard her speak on the theme “Equipping religious communities for vocation ministry.”



2014 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



The HORIZON Editorial Board (left to right): Sister Mary Rowell, C.S.J., Sister Virginia Herbers, A.S.C.J.; Sister Susan Francois, C.S.J.P.; Father Adam MacDonald, S.V.D.; Brother Tom Wendorf, S.M., Editor Carol Schuck Scheiber; and Father Chris Gibson, C.P.

NRVC publications

HORIZON In 2014, HORIZON energetically continued its mission to inform, inspire, and encourage deeper understanding of vocation ministry and related concerns in the church and society. The journal initiated special coverage of the Year of Consecrated Life and won four awards from the Catholic Press Association for excellence in Catholic journalism.

The National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors in Canada began forming HORIZON Reading Circles. Similar reading circles already exist in the United Kingdom as a form of professional development and support for vocation directors. Rounding out 2014, in response to a member survey, the NRVC newsletter, “Focus on Vocation Ministry,” upgraded the design of its email form to be more reader-friendly.

VISION VOCATION NETWORK Through the generosity of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, VISION received funding to create series of resources for the Year of Consecrated Life and beyond, including:

- A special expanded issue of the annual VISION Vocation Guide that included the “Consecrated life through the ages” timeline and a specially commissioned song, “Wake the World with Dawning Joy.”
- A Parish Resource Packet that was mailed to NRVC members and every parish and bishop in the U.S. and made available online.
- Videos and e-books for discerners.

- Resources for religious communities, including Guide to Growing your Community in the Digital Age and a survey of discerners on best practices.
- A storehouse of photos of religious life.

VISION remains the most comprehensive vocation discernment resource available in print and online. In addition to increasing the social engagement of its readers in 2014, VISION also received recognition from the Associated Church Press and the Catholic Press Association for its 2014 print and online offerings.



VISION editors produced a Year of Consecrated Life Parish Resource Packet that was distributed to NRVC members as well as every U.S. parish and bishop. Contents included material for homilists, bulletin editors, liturgists, directors of religious education, youth ministers, and parents.



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Sister Deborah M. Borneman, SS.C.M.,
secretary ++
Mrs. Julie Durkin Montague, secretary ++

Began term in Fall 2014

++ Ended term in Fall 2014

* Member of NRVC Leadership Committee

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS



We have to ask ourselves: Is Jesus really our first and only love, as we promised he would be when we professed our vows? Only if he is, will we be empowered to love, in truth and mercy, every person who crosses our path.

—POPE FRANCIS, *APOSTOLIC LETTER TO ALL CONSECRATED PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE*, Nov. 12, 2014

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 Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL)
Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR)
J.S. Paluch Co, National Vocation Awareness Division
Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)
National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD)
Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI)
Religious Formation Conference (RFC)
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations

Other Collaborating Organizations

Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA)
Communicators for Women Religious (CWR)
Hispanic Women Religious
National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA)
National Catholic Sisters Week
National Conference of Vicars for Religious (NCVR)
Religious Brothers Conference (RBC)

International Vocation Organizations

Catholic Vocation Ministry Australia (CVMA)
European Vocations Services (EVS)
National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (Canada)
National Service for the Evangelization of Youth and for Vocations, French Bishops' Conference, Paris
Office of Vocations, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales
Vocations Ireland



The J.S. Paluch Company donated calendars commemorating the NRVC's 25th anniversary for NRVC members to use at conferences.



FINANCES

National Religious Vocation Conference Statements of Activities Years Ended December 31, 2014 and 2013

	2014			2013		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUES AND SUPPORT						
Membership	\$ 360,573	\$	\$ 360,573	\$ 124,536	\$	\$124,536
Contributions and grants	8,940	2,000,000	2,008,940	60,418	233,300	293,718
Publications and resources	64,537		64,537	104,649		104,649
In-kind donations	52,893		52,893	98,967		98,967
Honoraria	10,480		10,480	15,070		15,070
Workshops and programs	314,933		314,933	162,870		162,870
Investment income (loss)	27,237		27,237	62,100		62,100
Miscellaneous income	10,162		10,162	324		324
Net assets released from restriction	889,350	(889,350)	-	528,051	(528,051)	-
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	\$ 1,748,105	(1,101,650)	\$2,849,755	\$1,156,985	(294,751)	862,234
EXPENSES						
Salaries and benefits	272,427		272,427	197,638		197,638
Administrative and general	144,234		144,234	112,555		112,555
Board and committees	49,368		49,368	26,568		26,568
Publications and resources	72,662		72,662	64,902		64,902
Workshops and programs				100,372		100,372
Moving Forward in Hope	227,552		227,552	125,112		125,112
Hilton Foundation program expense	486,082		486,082	268,338		268,338
GHR Foundation program expense	35,836		35,836	3,601		3,601
Porticus Foundation expense	68,816		68,816	45,354		45,354
Grant awarded to affiliate	193,000		193,000	-		-
In-kind donations	52,893		52,893	98,967		98,967
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,602,870		1,602,870	\$1,043,510		1,043,510
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	145,235	1,101,650	1,246,885	113,475	(294,751)	(181,276)
NET ASSETS						
Beginning of year	381,742	425,167	806,909	268,267	718,918	988,185
END OF YEAR	\$ 528,997	\$ 1,526,817	\$ 2,053,794	\$ 381,742	\$ 425,167	\$ 806,909

CONTRIBUTORS



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, 2014 to Dec. 31, 2014. Any donation or service received after that time will be included in next year's gift report. Every effort was made to acknowledge all gifts received. We regret any errors or omissions and would appreciate receiving the corrected information..

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NRVC Executive Director Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. was part of a delegation that traveled to Poland in May 2014 to begin planning the English-speaking pavilion for the 2016 World Youth Day, to be held in Krakow..

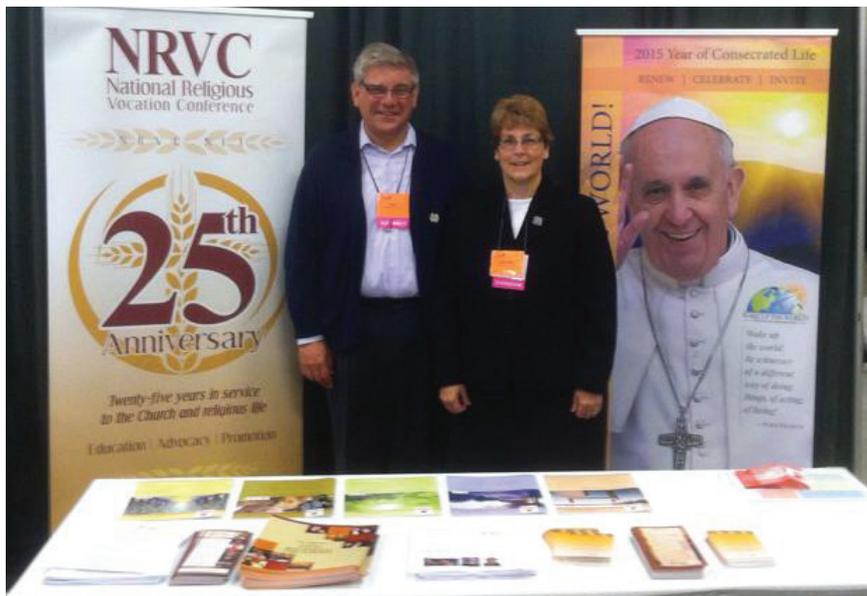




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Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. and Sister Debbie Borneman, SS.C.M. at the NRVC exhibit table at the 2014 LCWR assembly in Nashville..

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Mr. John Petrillo	Mr. Alvin Schettler	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Walton
Fr. Thomas Petrillo	Mr. & Mrs. James Schmitt	Sr. Mary Pat Watson, S.S.J.
Dr. William J. Pierce	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Schmitz	Mr. George Wehner
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pottratz	Ms. Martha Schmueser	Mr. & Mrs. Donald Weiss
Sr. Mary Anne Powers, C.N.D.	Mr. Albert Schreiver	Mrs. Rita Wiesbrook
Sr. Marylou Rajdl, M.M.	Mr. Gloria Schwartz	Dr. Howard Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Mario A. Ranalli	Ms. Mary Sellen	Ms. Sarah Williams
Ms. Segunda Reasol	Mr. Raymond Settimo	Ms. Jozefa Winiarska
Ms. Rita Regis	Ms. Kathleen Shafer	Mr. Aldin Winslowet-Alps
Mr. Michael Reidy	Sr. Mary Rosita Shiosee, S.B.S.	Sr. Rebecca Wolf, O.S.F.
Mr. Andrej Remec	Mrs. Mary Ann Sladek	Ms. Patricia Wuertz
Ms. Genevieve Remillard	Ms. Elena E. Sofikitis	Mr. Robert Yohanen
Ms. Dolores Ricke		Mr. & Mrs. Byron Zawaski

2014 NRVC MEMBERSHIP

License	565	<i>Total membership reflects:</i>	
Single	207	Sisters	568
Collaborators/staff	40	Priests/Deacons	134
Total Members	812	Brothers	57
Total Institutes	317	Laypeople	53

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.



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