

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

*A year of
gratitude,
passion,
& hope*



NRVC
National Religious
Vocation Conference



Dear Friend of NRVC,

In his *Apostolic Letter to All Consecrated People on the Occasion of the Year of Consecrated Life*, Pope Francis encouraged us “to look to the past with **gratitude** ... to live the present with **passion**” and “to embrace the future with **hope**.”

These three words, gratitude, passion, and hope, undoubtedly characterized our work at NRVC during this unprecedented year commemorating consecrated life.

- NRVC hosted in Rome the first ever international meeting for representatives of vocation centers from the western world;
- The NRVC-established National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV) granted over \$200,000 to eight religious institutes to alleviate the educational debt of 10 candidates for religious life;
- A new NRVC/CARA Study on the Influence of Family on Vocations to Religious Life and Priesthood was released in September;
- In partnership with TrueQuest Communication, approximately 18,000 resources packets for the Year of Consecrated Life were mailed to parishes around the country;
- The largest NRVC contingent ever participated in the fresh, newly revised vocation venue at the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC); and
- Today’s Catholic Sisters were celebrated at four gatherings held around the country in partnership with four Catholic universities.

In addition to all of the above, the NRVC administration was restructured and expanded from *three* to *seven* full-time members to meet the needs of the rapidly changing landscape of vocation ministry.

While all of this speaks of today’s passion and tomorrow’s hope, what is truly inspirational is the continued support of our NRVC board, staff, members, and benefactors who believe in our mission and who desire to see a vital future for religious life. To them I extend my heartfelt gratitude.

In “Wake the World with Dawning Joy,” a hymn commissioned by NRVC and VISION for the Year of Consecrated Life, we sing “Let us wake the world with uplifting words of hope.” In looking at the past accomplishments of NRVC, I think you would agree that we have sung a song this past year not only of hope, but of gratitude and passion as well. Blessed be God forever!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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

2015 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



NRVC reorganization and regional reconfiguration

With the hiring of a Director of Development and Database Administrator, NRVC completed the organizational expansion recommended in 2012 by the American City Bureau and outlined in the NRVC Strategic Priorities & Management Plan. NRVC now has seven full time staff members, up from three in 2013, a change that supports our growing influence both in the United States and internationally.

After a careful, three-year consultation process involving the NRVC membership, regional coordinators, and the study of other national organizations, the NRVC Board approved a new regional configuration better suited to serve the needs of the membership. In 2016 NRVC will transition from 14 geographic regions to 12 Member Areas with more fluid boundaries. As a benefit of NRVC membership, members may attend gatherings and programs in any of the Member Areas at a special membership price.

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation Support

With the generous support of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, NRVC undertook the following projects in 2015:

INTERNATIONAL VOCATION CONFERENCE In response to the unique vocation challenges faced by the Western developed nations, NRVC hosted an unprecedented meeting of international vocation leaders to share vocation-related information, identify common needs and challenges, and explore future areas for worldwide collaboration in promoting vocations to consecrated life. Leaders from the United States, Canada, England/Wales, Ireland, France, Germany, Australia, the South Pacific Islands, and New Zealand participated in the three-day conference, which was held in February at the Istituto Maria Santissima Bambina, located



Vocation leaders met in February in Rome for the International Vocation Conference.

just outside of St. Peter's Square in Rome.

Also attending was Father Hank Lemoncelli, O.M.I., from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL), the Secretaries General of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) and the Union of Superiors General (USG), and the Vice-President of the Union of the European Conferences of Major Superiors (UCESM).

The conference culminated with the delegates presenting their findings and recommendations to several representatives from CICLSAL. The delegates also released a statement presenting a range of common concerns, including the need for a comprehensive theology of religious life and the need to collaborate on and share communications and resources.

A subgroup of the International Vocation Conference delegates reconvened in Paris in December to explore further actions in relation to issues defined at the Rome conference. NRVC was represented both in Rome and Paris by Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., Executive Director, Sister Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., Director of Member Relations and Services, and Brother Ronald Hingle, S.C., NRVC Board Chair.

THE YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

With our partner, TrueQuest Communications, NRVC undertook a comprehensive plan for promoting the Year of Consecrated Life, which began on November 30, 2014 and

concluded on February 2, 2016. NRVC and VISION Vocation Guide commissioned world-renowned composer Steven Warner from the University of Notre Dame to write an anthem in honor of the Year of Consecrated Life. The result, "Wake the world with dawning joy," inspired by the words of Pope Francis, urges men and women religious to continue to wake the world with their witness. The song lyrics and music, in multiple languages, were made available for download on both the NRVC and VISION websites and were published by World Library Publications.

NRVC and TrueQuest also created a special Year of Consecrated Life logo in multiple languages and published resources available to religious communities and parishes to encourage the celebration of this special year. The hymn and logo were used by several other countries worldwide. NRVC also created a beautiful, stand-alone banner celebrating the Year of Consecrated Life, which many religious communities purchased for their celebrations.

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN NURTURING VOCATIONS TO THE RELIGIOUS LIFE AND PRIESTHOOD NRVC commissioned a study conducted by the Center for Applied Research in Apostolate





2015 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

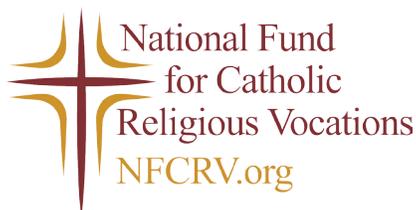
(CARA) on the influence of families on the discernment of vocations to the religious life and priesthood.

The study results point to patterns of family life that are nurturing to religious and priestly vocations. Survey respondents were more likely to have attended Catholic schools, went to Mass together as a family, prayed together at home, displayed religious art in their homes, and were involved in parish life. Having a family member who was a religious or priest was another positive influence on priestly and religious vocations, as was the presence of Catholic media in the home. Family members who responded to the survey recommended that families should discuss religious and priestly vocations as life options and encourage and support family members who are considering or who have chosen these vocations.

NRVC released the study in conjunction with the 2014 and 2015 Synod on the Family in Rome and the 8th World Meeting of Families held in Philadelphia in September, 2015. NRVC and its partner, the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV), were both present as exhibitors at the World Meeting of Families. They provided information on concrete steps families can take to support vocations. Members from Region 3 helped to staff the NRVC booth, which was available to approximately 17,000 Catholics from 150 countries.

The complete study is available at www.nrvc.net.

CATHOLIC SISTERS INITIATIVE CONVENING NRVC's Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. and Sister Debbie Borneman, SS.C.M. participated in a November gathering in Pasadena, California of the 32 organizations that have received grants from the Catholic Sisters' Initiative of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation. The Hilton Foundation sponsored the convening, which allowed grantees to network, share what they've learned from their projects, and respond to a study the Foundation conducted of public perceptions of Catholic sisters. Brother Paul was one of three panelists who responded to the study.



of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, NFCRV awarded its first grants to eight religious communities who are NRVC members to assist with the educational debt of 10 incom-

National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV)

In 2015, through the vision and generosity

ing candidates. These grants support the vocation journeys of ten young women pursuing their dreams to become religious sisters. The candidates are profiled on the NFCRV website, nfcrv.org.

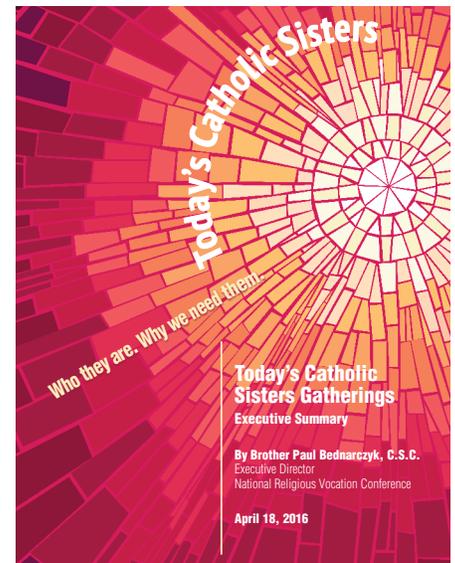
Director Mark Teresi and the NFCRV Board implemented a strategy designed to promote the mission and goals of NFCRV to foundations and potential donors across the country. The goal of the Fund is to increase the number of candidates to religious life by 10 percent in 10 years. With a grant from the GHR Foundation, the first video promoting NFCRV was created and can be viewed on YouTube. The video, produced by TrueQuest Communications in collaboration with Phil Loftus of Stubborn Wave Marketing, captures the vitality, enthusiasm, and spirituality of this exciting new initiative.

NFCRV is grateful to the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and the GHR Foundation for their generous financial support.

Today's Catholic Sisters: Who They Are. Why We Need Them.

In conjunction with the Year of Consecrated Life, NRVC hosted symposia on women religious at four universities sponsored by women religious communities: University of the Incarnate Word (San Antonio), Dominican University (Chicago), Immaculata University (Philadelphia), and Mount Saint Mary's University (Los Angeles). The symposia were intended to raise awareness of the importance of women religious to the Church and the world as well as to counter the myths of religious sisters presented in the media.

Each half-day symposium featured presentations by the three authors of "The New Generation of Catholic Sisters: the Challenge of Diversity," Dr. Mary Gautier, Sr. Mary Johnson, S.N.D.deN., and Sr. Patricia Wittberg, S.C. The author presentations were followed by a panel discussion with four young and newly professed sisters reflecting



2015 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



on what attracted and sustains them in religious life. The young sisters represented 16 different religious communities from both the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR). Audience assessments of the symposia were universally positive. A summary of the symposia is posted on the NRVC website, nrvc.net.

NRVC is grateful to the GHR Foundation for funding the Today's Catholic Sisters symposia and to the four universities for co-hosting the events.



NRVC members representing 55 religious institutes took part in the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) held November 19-21 in Indianapolis.

NRVC at NCYC

Nearly 20% of NRVC religious institutes participated in the biennial National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), November 19-21, 2015, sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). The 2015 NCYC theme was *Here I Am Lord/Aqui Estoy Señor*. NRVC members representing 55 religious institutes participated as exhibitors, vocation team members, story tellers, and animator mentors.

NCYC is a three day high-energy experience of prayer, community, service, and keynote speakers for over 24,000 teens, parents, and youth ministers from around the country. To commemorate the Year of Consecrated Life, fifteen religious institutes taught their spirituality and prayed their various devotions together in the Chapel. Brother Ronnie Hingle, S.C., NRVC board chair, and Sister Deborah M. Borneman, SS.C.M., NRVC director of member relations and services, also presented a workshop on discernment with a panel of NRVC members.

Vocaciones sin Fronteras en un Mundo Cambiante/ Vocations without Borders in a Changing World

NRVC partnered with Catholic Extension to assist 62 Spanish speaking Sisters from Latin America in becoming relevant, proficient, and credible pastoral ministers who are also confident vocation promoters. The sisters attended a workshop in June, at the Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra, CA. This event included presentations, small-group activities, and time for participants to network with one another. This workshop addressed the Clarity and Appreciation of Culture; Theology of Call, the Role and Responsibilities of Vocation Promoters; and Building a Culture of Vocations.

Sister Deborah M. Borneman, SS.C.M., NRVC director of member relations and services, and Ms. Erika Cedrone, Catholic Extension Director of Mission, coordinated the project. Ms. Rosa Maria Gouveia served as the workshop translator. NRVC members Sister Elsa Garcia, C.D.P., and Sister Raquel Ortez, S.S.N.D. were the workshop presenters.

Multicultural Diversity Symposium

NRVC hosted a symposium in June in Washington, DC, to review and discuss the 2014 NRVC/CARA *Study on Cultural Diversity in Religious Life*. The purpose of the symposium was to explore further the implications of cultural diversity in religious life by sharing the results of the study. Invited guests to this special event included directors of national Catholic organizations, major superiors, and formators in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. The event, attended by 30 people, was held at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops office. Dr. Mary Gautier, PhD, senior research associate at CARA, presented the results of the study. A panel of young, multiethnic religious then responded to the report. As a result of the symposium, the NRVC board is planning creative ways to continue the important discussion of cultural diversity in religious communities.

Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope

In May, a sub-committee of the Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope planning committee met in Chicago to review the insights and recommendations from the 2013 and 2014 gatherings of men religious and to develop further strategies for dealing with the crucial issues facing men's religious communities. The committee also discussed how communities utilized the Culture of Vocations Assessment tool, developed by Brother John Mark Falkenhain, O.S.B.,



2015 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



Regional coordinators for NRVC gathered in Chicago September 28-30 to prepare for leading their regions.

which had been distributed to all participants of the Men Religious Moving Forward in Hope participants.

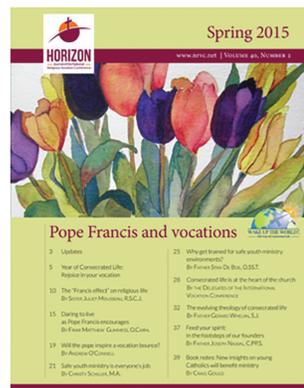
NRVC Regional Coordinators Annual Meeting

Nineteen regional coordinators gathered in Chicago for the annual meeting held in September. The agenda included an update of the board strategic plan and the board proposals for regional reconfiguration, an update from the NRVC executive director which included plans for World Youth Day, the International Vocations Conference, the Symposia for Today's Catholic Sisters, and two new NRVC professional studies. Each coordinator was given a new handbook and training to provide information on membership engagement, digital resources, and professional development workshops, including *Vocaciones sin Fronteras en un Mundo Cambiante*, a collaborative program with Catholic Extension. Communal prayer was integrated throughout the days including a commissioning service of the regional coordinators.

NRVC Publications

HORIZON

In 2015 HORIZON gave special attention to the Year of Consecrated Life, with a column dedicated to news and reflections on religious life. HORIZON also covered the historic international gatherings of vocation conferences held in Rome in February and December. Other editions looked at Pope Francis' impact on vocations and, in light of the Synod on the Family, on family concerns connected to vocations.



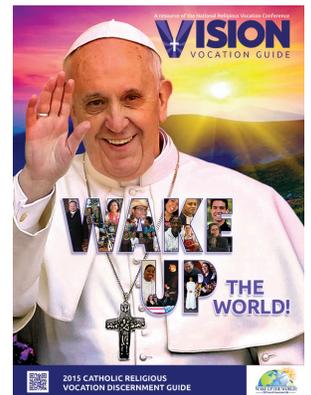
HORIZON strives for the highest standards in journalism, and in 2015 it was recognized by the Catholic Press Association with awards for achievement in feature writing, analysis, book reviews, and spiritual reflection.

HORIZON also took steps in 2015 to increase its presence in social media: increasing its activity on Twitter and establishing itself on Facebook. In this way, the publication hopes to increase its impact in nurturing a culture of vocation. NRVC friends are encouraged to find the journal on Twitter at @scheiberCarol and on Facebook at HORIZON Vocation Journal.

VISION Vocation Guide and Website

With the help of a Conrad N. Hilton grant, VISION was able to update its website and produce its special Year of Consecrated Life issue, and throughout 2015 distribute hundreds of thousands of resources:

- 17,000 printed Year of Consecrated Life parish packets
- 150,000 prayer cards
- 150,000 VISION guides and 150,000 bookmarks.



VISION 2016, published in August 2015, featured a special cover and reflection in honor of the Holy Year of Mercy.

VISION Vocation Guide remains the most comprehensive vocation resource available in print and online for men and women discerning a vocation to religious life. VISION was honored by the Catholic Press Association and Associated Church Press with eight awards for excellence in 2015.

In the spring of 2015, VISION traveled to Krakow with the planning committee for the English-speaking pavilion to prepare for the 2016 World Youth Day. VISION will have a strong presence in Krakow in 2016 and actively engage young Catholics and promote VISION guide and Vocation-Network.org.

VISION promoted vocations and its sponsoring religious communities at a number of youth conferences in 2015, through extensive online advertising, and with the distribution of guides and bookmarks throughout the U.S. and Canada in print and digitally across the globe.

To better serve its international readers/discerners, VISION continues its international outreach to other vocation conferences, most particularly Vocations Ireland, Compass in the U.K., and the French Bishops Conference.

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+ Began term Summer 2015
++ Ended term Summer 2015

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ex officio
Julie Durkin
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+ Began term Fall 2015
++ Ended term Fall 2015
*Member of NRVC
Executive Committee



The 2015-16
NRVC Board



National Religious Vocation Conference Statements of Activities Years Ended December 31, 2015 and 2014

	2015			2014		
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Total
REVENUES AND SUPPORT						
Membership	\$348,000	\$	\$348,000	\$360,573	\$	\$360,573
Contributions and grants	17,322	56,855	74,177	8,940	2,000,000	2,008,940
Publications and resources	73,202		73,202	64,537		64,537
In-kind donations	103,156		103,156	52,893		52,893
Honoraria	10,947		10,947	10,480		10,480
Workshops and programs	182,592		182,592	314,933		314,933
Investment income (Note 3)	1,136		1,136	27,237		27,237
Miscellaneous income	7,843		7,843	10,162		10,162
Net assets released from restriction	698,415	(698,415)	-	898,350	(898,350)	-
TOTAL REVENUES AND SUPPORT	1,442,613	(641,560)	801,053	1,748,105	1,101,650	2,849,755
EXPENSES						
Salaries and benefits	211,607		211,607	272,427		272,427
Administrative and general	163,630		163,630	144,234		144,234
Board and committees	28,463		28,463	49,368		49,368
Publications and resources	103,923		103,923	72,662		72,662
Workshops and programs	99,405		99,405	227,552		227,552
Hilton Foundation program	622,294		622,294	486,082		486,082
GHR Foundation program	38,580		38,580	35,836		35,836
Porticus Foundation program	37,540		37,540	68,816		68,816
Grant awarded to affiliate	-		-	193,000		193,000
In-kind donations	103,156		103,156	52,893		52,893
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,408,599		1,408,599	1,602,870		1,602,870
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	34,014	(641,560)	(607,546)	145,235	1,101,650	1,246,885
NET ASSETS						
Beginning of year	526,977	1,526,817	2,053,794	381,742	425,167	806,909
End of year	\$560,991	\$885,257	\$1,446,248	\$ 526,977	\$1,526,817	\$2,053,794

COLLABORATING ORGANIZATIONS



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

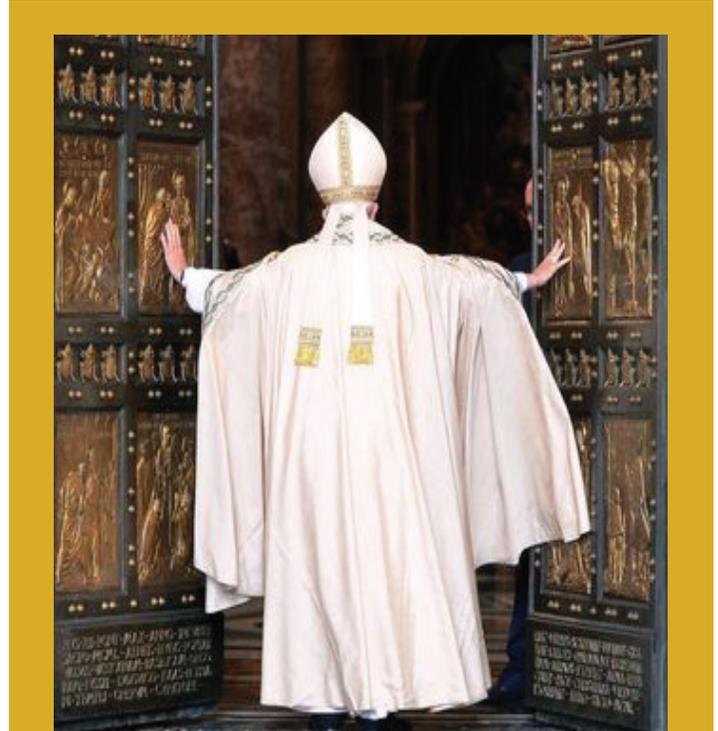
Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)
Congregation for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL)
Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR)
J. S. Paluch Co., National Vocation Awareness Division
Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR)
National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD)
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

Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA)
Catholic Volunteer Network
Catholics on Call
Center for Applied research in the Apostolate (CARA)
Communicators for Women Religious (CWR)
Giving Voice
Hispanic Women Religious
National Catholic Sisters Week
National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association (NCYAMA)
National Conference of Vicars for Religious (NCVR)
National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministers (NFCYM)
Serra, USA Council

International Vocation Organizations

Catholic Vocation Ministry Australia (CVMA)
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)



NO ONE can be excluded from the mercy of God . . . the Church is the house that welcomes all.

—POPE FRANCIS, AT THE MASS MARKING THE START OF THE HOLY YEAR OF MERCY

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



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, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015. 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.

MISERICORDIA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

- Adorers of the Blood of Christ
St. Louis, MO
- Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Hamden, CT
- Augustinian Friars
San Diego, CA
- Augustinian Friars
Chicago, IL
- Benedictine Sisters
Clyde, MO
- Benedictine Sisters
Crookston, MN
- Benedictine Sisters
Fort Smith, AR
- Benedictine Sisters
Elizabeth, NJ
- Benedictine Sisters
Fort Smith, AR
- Benedictine Sisters
Watertown, SD
- Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and Infirm
Germantown, NY
- Congregation de Notre Dame
Wilton, CT
- Congregation of Bon Secours
Marriottsville, MD

- Congregation of Divine Providence
San Antonio, TX
- Congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
New Orleans, LA
- Daughters of Wisdom
Islip, NY
- Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose, CA
Fremont, CA
- Dominican Sisters of Peace
Columbus, OH
- Dominican Sisters
Racine, WI
- Dominican Sisters
San Rafael, CA
- Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration
La Crosse, WI
- Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart
Yardley, PA
- Jesuit Fathers and Brothers
St. Louis, MO
- Little Company of Mary Sisters
Evergreen Park, IL
- Missionaries of the Holy Family
San Antonio, TX
- Norbertine Fathers and Brothers
Paoli, PA

- Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters
Huntington, IN
- Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
Donaldson, IN
- Presentation Sisters of the P.B.V.M.
New Windsor, NY
- Religious of the Assumption
Worcester, MA
- Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary
Tarrytown, NY
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
Baltimore, MD
- School Sisters of Notre Dame
St. Louis, MO
- Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati
Mt. St. Joseph, OH
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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.

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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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