

159,218

Putting the numbers in perspective

National Religious Vocation Conference

2009
Annual Report

Need a new



Dear Friend of NRVC,

In my early school days, mathematics was never one of my favorite subjects. Even though Sister assured us that “numbers are our friends,” I always found their precision intimidating, if not limiting. One of my community’s treasurers agreed in the good of numbers, but he once cautioned that if we only seek the truth within the accuracy of the math, we can lose sight of the bigger picture, which is most often where the truth is found.

Numbers played an important role in the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) this past year with August 2009 release of our landmark *Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life*. Done in collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) we were presented with percentages, averages, medians, and modes that were both overwhelming and necessary. No study of its kind had ever been done before. Even as we welcomed the data, we also realized the importance of putting the numbers in perspective so that the truth of contemporary religious life would be accurately revealed.

Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, NRVC associate director, and I have met and spoken with many diverse groups of bishops, major superiors, and other religious to assist them in reading and interpreting the results of the study and assuring them of the most salient findings. Women and men continue to respond to God’s mysterious call to live lives of consecrated chastity, poverty, and obedience. They desire to deepen their commitment to the Church and to Jesus Christ in service to God’s people in community. Ultimately, our study confirmed that people come to religious life for the same reasons they have come for generations before them.

NRVC is committed to keeping this truth about religious life in the forefront of our Church. This fall NRVC, with the assistance of a generous foundation grant, will host a vocation symposium to review the NRVC/CARA research and create a concrete and comprehensive plan for putting the numbers to work for us to promote vocations effectively and ensure the future of religious life in the U.S.

NRVC is most grateful for the generous support of our many friends and benefactors who share in our mission through their financial donations and contributed services. They, our board, and our dedicated staff have been a blessing to our membership and to all who benefit from our services to the Church and religious life.

With this annual report, I invite you now to put NRVC, our works, and our accomplishments, into perspective within the larger mission of the Church and religious life. It is my prayerful wish that you will see the value of our services and will contribute to our mission of ensuring religious priests, sisters, and brothers for future generations.

With peaceful best wishes and blessings, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bro. Paul Bednarczyk". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC
Executive Director

headline

NRVC / CARA Study on Recent Vocation to Religious Life

After over a year in the making, in August of 2009 NRVC released the results of its landmark study on recent vocations to religious life, done in collaboration with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). This first-of-its-kind study identified nearly 4,000 newer entrants to religious life since 1993 and represents well over 80 percent of women and men religious in the United States. The research underscored the increased diversity in age, ethnicity, and life experiences among new members and their desire for Catholic identity, worship, and communal living. The goal of this project was to highlight the best practices for vocation promotion and religious formation.

The study results received significant attention in the national and international secular and religious media. In anticipation of this, NRVC formed a Communications and Media Task Force to prepare for the release and to provide online resources for those wishing to learn more about the study. The entire report, as well as supplementary videos and other materials related to the study, can be found at www.nrvc.net.

The report also received the attention of religious institutes and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). **Sister Mary Bendyna, RSM**, executive director of CARA and author of the study, and Brother **Paul Bednarczyk, CSC**, executive director of NRVC, were invited to present the study findings to the Annual assembly of Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) which was held in New Orleans. Likewise, **Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap**, chair of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations, invited Brother Paul to present the material at the November annual assembly of U.S. bishops in Baltimore. Brother Paul asked the bishops for their support in

promoting consecrated life in their dioceses.

Religious institutes and dioceses, either individually or in collaboration with one another, continue to process the results of the study as they look to the future and the development of their own vocation plans and strategies. The Fall 2009 edition of *Horizon*, the NRVC professional journal, is dedicated entirely to the NRVC / CARA Study and includes important information for vocation ministers, including several program outlines highlighting the study's best practices.

Grants in Support of NRVC

The vocation study would not have been possible if it were not for the generosity of an anonymous foundation, as well as other support organizations, who contributed to its funding.

In December, NRVC received an additional grant for \$47,250 from another anonymous foundation to host a vocation symposium as a follow-up to the NRVC / CARA report. The purpose of this *Moving Forward in Hope Project* is to gather together representatives from various church constituencies to study the research and to create a strategic plan of concrete action steps that would support the building of a vocation culture. This symposium, which is scheduled for September 2010, is one way NRVC is keeping both the study and vocation promotion front and center in the Church and in religious life.

Also, for a third year in a row, NRVC has received from an additional grant for \$24,900 to be used specifically for vocation education. Over the past three years, this generous foundation has gifted NRVC with a grand total of \$59,800.

Organizational Strategic Planning in Process

The NRVC Board continues to be actively involved in strategic planning for NRVC's future. In October, with the assistance of Dr.

Thomas Walters, Ph.D., a consultant for strategic planning, mission enhancement, and accreditation, the board is looking at the internal operations of the organization, the national office, and future financial sustainability of NRVC. Our goal is to have this process completed by November so that the plan can be presented to the membership at the 20120 Convocation in Cleveland.

National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), Kansas City, KS

Kansas City came alive from November 19-21 with the arrival of more than 22,000 young Catholics and adults! The event was the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC), "Christ Reigns," sponsored by the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). This was the largest single gathering of Catholic youth in the United States.

NRVC is a collaborating member of NFCYM, and thanks to board member **Father Anthony Vinson, OSB**, NRVC was instrumental in the organization of this year's workshop offerings and vocation exhibit area. For the first time NFCYM dedicated one full block of workshops to the "what now" of discernment. Nineteen individual sessions were offered on the various dimensions of discernment and decision-making.

A highlight of the gathering was the vocation exhibit called the "Reign Forest," which included the displays of over 60 religious institutes. NRVC and Vision VocationMatch.com booths were prominently placed next to the USCCB in the center of the exhibit hall. I am especially grateful to all of the religious congregations that supported this event with their presence. NRVC is currently in dialogue with NFCYM for further collaboration on similar youth events in the future.

In addition to NCYC, in 2009 NRVC also had a presence at the Catholic Campus Ministry Association convention in Atlanta, the Los Angeles Religious Education Conference, the Eucharistic Congress sponsored by CMSWR in Washington, DC, the Religious Formation Congress in Denver, and the annual assemblies of CMSM and LCWR.

NRVC Website Gets a Facelift

To serve our membership and the general public more effectively, this past year the NRVC website sported a bright new look and contemporary web design. With most general information now posted on the homepage, navigation of the NRVC website has been facilitated and is much more user-friendly. This improvement continues in the coming year as we are also upgrading the underlying architecture of the website which will allow for more additional features to serve our members.

European Vocation Services, Rome, Italy

NRVC Executive Director, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, represented the United States at the European Vocation Services (EVS) conference, held in July in Rome, Italy. This conference gathers annually the directors of vocation services for the 34 European bishop conferences. Brother Paul gave a report regarding our vocation efforts in the United States. Our European colleagues expressed great interest in the results of our vocation study.

The highlight of the conference was a July 4 private audience in the Clementine Hall of the papal palace with **His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI**. The Holy Father addressed the EVS participants in Italian and emphasized the pastoral priority for vocation work in every diocese. An English translation of Pope Benedict's address may be accessed at the following link:

<http://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/view.cfm?recnum=9052>

Year for Priests

In 2009 Pope Benedict XVI declared for the universal Church a "Year for Priests" which will conclude in June 2010 in Rome with an international gathering of priests. With the assistance of our Religious Priesthood Committee, NRVC commemorated this special year in the following ways:

- ◆ Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., chair of the Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations graciously accepted NRVC's invitation to write a letter of support and affirmation to our religious priests. This was warmly

and gratefully received by our NRVC members.

- ◆ Articles highlighting the various dimensions of religious priesthood have been published in the NRVC professional vocation journal, HORIZON.
- ◆ Clerical religious institutes and their charisms have been featured in our monthly online newsletter.
- ◆ VISION Vocation Guide had highlighted various priests in its SpiritCittings blog.

VISION Vocation Guide

VISION Vocation Guide continues to be a popular and essential multimedia resource for those discerning a religious vocation.

2009 Statistics: In 2009, more than 7,000 discerners completed online profiles and requested information from the nearly 300 men's and women's religious communities that participated in VISION 2009. Hundreds of thousands of free printed guides, parish posters, and bookmarks were distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, the digital edition of the guide at www.digitalvocation-guide.org reached another 12,000 readers, and the VISION website received approximately 150,000 visitors in 2009.

2009 Highlights: VISION welcomed Sr. Julie Vieira, IHM as an online columnist, and the VISION editors began posting regular items on Facebook, Twitter, and VISION's SpiritCittings blog. In addition they expanded their regular postings in Spanish and added several more articles in French.

In January 2009 VISION launched the monthly electronic newsletter E-Vocation. By year end it was being emailed to more than 8,000 discerners and advertisers who signed up to receive the vocation-related updates. VISION also created the VisionVocationGuide YouTube channel featuring videos from communities who have included short videos in their online listings on the VISION Vocation-Network.org website.

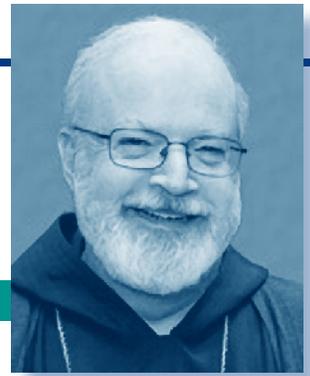
VISION executive editor, Patrice Tuohy, worked closely with Judith Edymann of Compass, a vocation program within the Conference of Religious in England and Wales, to develop a plan to serve U.K. religious communities and discerners more effectively in the coming year.

VISION's popular Vocation Match service was featured in a number of media stories in 2009, and the editors received press inquiries from reporters around the country and as far reaching as Italy and France.

VISION staff continued to promote the print and online publications through extensive online advertising and through their presence at workshops and conferences, including the 2009 National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Kansas City. VISION also offered content to the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference Vocation Website and sponsored the Bishops' raffle of a Wii at the NCYC.

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, OFM Cap., Archbishop of Boston, Chairman

USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations



The Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations is pleased to consider the NRVC one of our closest collaborators. The bishops are very grateful for your work in the promotion of

vocations to the priesthood and religious life; one of the priority concerns of the bishops.

As you may know the bishops' conference invited Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, to present the findings of the 2009 NRVC/CARA study on recent vocations to religious life before the body of bishops at the November 2009 General Assembly in Baltimore. The careful execution of the survey and the results of this study are of great interest to each of us. We are looking forward to offering any future encouragement as further research is done.

With regards to the work of this Secretariat, we have been focused on providing resources for the Year for Priests, a time that is proving to be a great blessing for the Church. We are also in the midst of launching a new website dedicated to promoting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life – one of the top five priorities of the USCCB. In this regard, it would be greatly appreciated if you could please add a link on your own vocation websites to the new USCCB site www.ForYourVocation.org, which was launched on April 25, 2010, the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Good

Shepherd Sunday. This multimedia campaign is a work in progress, so please do not hesitate to offer the secretariat your ideas and suggestions for content. The secretariat relies on vocation directors to offer their expertise and resources so that this campaign can be a valuable resource for discerners, parents, teachers and catechists, youth leaders, and vocation directors.

The bishops' committee will be in transition in the coming months with Archbishop Carlson taking over as chairman in November. Likewise, the secretariat has a new Executive Director, Fr. Shawn McKnight, beginning July 2010. We also have welcomed a new Associate

May the Lord bless our labors in the promotion of vocations to religious life for the sake of building up the Body of Christ.



In May 2009 the NRVC Leadership Team met with NRVC Episcopal Liaison, Bishop Gregory M. Aymond, in Austin, TX. On August 20, 2009, Archbishop Aymond was installed as the 14th Archbishop of New Orleans. He is the first native son of New Orleans to serve as Archbishop in the history of the archdiocese.

Director in January of this year, Sister Mary Joanna Ruhland, RSM.

May the Lord bless our labors in the promotion of vocations to religious life for the sake of building up the Body of Christ.



Sister Jane Burke, SSND, Executive Director

Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR)



At the recent annual New Leaders workshop sponsored by LCWR, our daily reflections centered on the gift of leadership. One of the quotes used says:

“Everything in life is most fundamentally a gift. And you receive it best and you live it best by holding it with very open hands” (Leo O’Donovan)

Gifts may not be the word one would associate with the experience of LCWR and US women religious this year, but in reality, that is what we have received over and over again. Gifts come in all kinds of packages and in all manner of ways. Gifts can cause great joy, make us pause to reflect on what has been given and why, and sometimes be the last thing we were expecting. But if you believe life is most fundamentally a gift, then you can expect the unexpected.

As we learned over many months, the Apostolic Visitation process and the Doctrinal Assessment of the LCWR have gifted us with a deeper sense of solidarity and oneness as we stand in our truth being respectful of but not overwhelmed by the processes. Both have gifted us with a renewed sense of our baptismal commitment lived now through the vowed life and congregational mission, which have given shape to our ministries of service to God’s people. Both have gifted us with a renewed commitment to prayer, reflection, and dialogue with one another as we contemplate the essence of our lives in apostolic congregations. Both were the final impetus for the members of the LCWR at our 2009 Assembly. There we renewed our LCWR Call for the next five years by making the commit-

ments to explore the signs of the times from a gospel perspective in order to understand the implications for religious life and to develop a strategic operational plan for the conference. As a result we now have established what is known as the Contemporary Religious Life Project, with two of its three committees operational. Unwrapping these gifts can only bring new life and energy into our future.

On another note the Women and Spirit

exhibit opened in May 2009 and now continues its journey to various museums across the United States. If you do not have the opportunity to visit this fine testimony to the life and work of women religious, you will be able to see it in the near future through a

filmed documentary soon to be in production.

While it is true that we do not know what the near or long term future may hold for apostolic women religious in the U.S. nor for the LCWR as a conference, we have learned anew what Maya Angelou meant when she said: “One must know not just how to accept a gift, but with what grace to share it.”



We renewed our LCWR Call for the next five years by making the commitments to explore the signs of the times from a gospel perspective in order to understand the implications for religious life and to develop a strategic operational plan for the conference.



Father Paul Lininger, OFM Conv., Executive Director
Conference of Major Superiors of Men



Perhaps more than any other preceding generation, today's young Catholics are seeking to discover their way in the Church and in the world. And consequently they ask many questions, and in turn contemplate many possibilities. One of those promising questions, generally speaking, might be "What exactly is a religious?"

How we as religious frame our response to their inquiry is important. Would our response begin with the differences and distinctions of roles as an ordained or non-ordained? Would we spout the laundry lists of the works of charity rendered by women and men of faith in the name of the gospel? Perhaps we might be vigilant and interpret the question as a vocational inquiry, and point the way to the website and the vocation office? Yet, given that from the beginning we have been told that our religious profession is intrinsically linked to our baptism, how does the action of God figure into our chosen response?

What a difference one's response can make!

Coming back to the question, "What exactly is a religious?" in terms of what God does, what might our response be? It might sound something like "A religious is someone so in love with God that others experience the Mystery of God working in him or her."

No one is drawn to religious life because they want to do the things religious do. There are many other alternative ways and means to do the same. People are drawn to religious life because they want to experience God as religious experience God.

Thank you to the National Religious Vocation Office, its devoted staff, vocation directors and supporters for the wonderful work you are doing to help facilitate an environment where the important questions can be raised. But also for all you are doing to aid our religious institutes and their members to be living examples of who we say we are, and want to be, as living witnesses in the Church to the world.

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Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR)



The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) is a canonically approved organization founded in 1992 to promote religious life in the United

States. Composed of major superiors in the United States, the group is dedicated to Mary, Mother of the Church and Patroness of the Americas. Members of the Council wish to serve the Church and to foster the progress and welfare of religious life in the United States.

Some of the activities of CMSWR in 2009 include the following:

- ◆ The CMSWR sponsored a Eucharistic Congress in September 2009 at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC. The theme of the Congress was Sacrifice of Enduring Love with the focus on the vocations of the priesthood, religious life and married life. Some of the presenters and workshops included: Carl Anderson-- Called to Love; His Eminence Marc Cardinal Ouellet--The Eucharist in the Mission of Marriage and Family; Laura Molla and Giuseppe Pannuti, "To be Lovers of Life:" The Legacy of My Mother, St. Gianna Beretta Molla ; Terry Polakovic, The Complementary Vocations of Religious and Lay Women: Examples of Leadership; and Father Thomas Rosica, C.S.B.; Religious Life: Living Exegesis of the Word of God .

- ◆ The Executive Officers of the CMSWR made their annual visit to Rome in October 2009. They met with different diacasteries, including the Congregation on Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life; Congregation for Bishops and the Congregation for Education. The meetings focused on the CMSWR House of Studies in Rome and means to support this endeavor as Sisters continue to take advantage of the opportunity to study in Rome and come to know and love the Church

in a new way.

- ◆ A Formation Workshop was sponsored at the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles in February 2010. The theme of the workshop was: The Theology of the Body. Presenters included: Father Douglas Mosey, C.S.B.; Sister John Mary Sullivan, F.S.E., and Sister Barbara Johnson, F.S.E.

- ◆ The Regional Workshops for 2010 will focus on the book, *The Foundations of Religious Life: Revisiting the Vision*. The authors were filmed by Catholic TV in Boston, presenting excerpts from the book for teaching purchases. DVD's were made so that CMSWR communities could sponsor



workshops on religious life using the DVD as a teaching tool. The Regional Workshops are sponsored throughout the United States and are open to all women religious. Dates and location can be found on the CMSWR web site

- ◆ Preparations for World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain are underway. Dates for WYD will be August 16-21, 2011. The theme for WYD is "Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith." The CMSWR will sponsor Sisters from the various CMSWR member communities. We are hoping to send between 65-75 sisters.

With this report, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious would like to thank Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC and his staff for the continued work being done for religious life in the United States. The mission of the National Religious Vocation Conference to education, resources, and other supportive services for the personal and professional growth of women religious, has been and continues to be of great service to the Church. May each be blessed in their efforts to promote vocations to religious life.

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Mrs. Rosemary C. Sullivan, Executive Director
**National Conference of Diocesan
 Vocation Directors (NCDVD)**



NCDVD continues to be blessed with strong membership numbers. Our conferences have seen an increased number of participants from Canada, Australia and Ireland, as we all look to work together in promoting vocations for our Lord.



The National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, NCDVD, has had a busy and productive year. After much consideration and a closer look at the needs and future goals of NCDVD, the Executive Board determined that it would be best to recombine the position of Events Coordinator and Executive Director. On July 1, 2009, Rosemary Sullivan was named NCDVD Executive Director. This change necessitated a transfer of the National Office from Baltimore to New York, to the grounds of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception, Huntington, NY.

Our 46th Annual Convention was held in East Rutherford, NJ September 27th –30th at the Sheraton Hotel, and was an historic occasion with the presence of Archbishop

Our 2010 Convention will be held in Milwaukee, WI, September 13th –16th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The theme of the convention is Thy Will Be Done. The 2010 convention will be hosted by NCDVD in conjunction with the Seminary Division of the NCEA and MATS. Our keynote addresses will be given by Francis Cardinal George, OMI, Archbishop of Chicago, and Rev. Thomas Rosica, C.S.B., CEO of Canada's Catholic Salt & Light Television network. Both will address a joint session of Vocation Directors and Seminary Rectors and personnel. This gathering will promote healthy dialogue and sharing of ideas between vocation directors and rectors. The 2010 convention will also see a major change in our program, as we shift the conference one day forward, officially opening on a Monday. It is hoped that this change will better accommodate the needs of our members who have increased Sunday responsibilities, which impacts their travel to convention.

In January, NCDVD held its second Bi-Annual Winter Retreat at the Bethany Retreat Center, Diocese of St. Petersburg, Florida. The silent, individually directed retreat, led by Deacon James Keating and Rev. John Horn of the Institute for Priestly Formation, centered around the theme: Resting on the Heart of Christ: The Catholic Imagination at Prayer.

NCDVD continues to be blessed with strong membership numbers. Our conferences have seen an increased number of participants from Canada, Australia and Ireland, as we all look to work together in promoting vocations for our Lord.



Pietro Sambì, Apostolic Nuncio to the US, who addressed the conference on Monday, September 28th. Due to the poor economy and various diocesan travel restrictions, it was difficult for some of our members to attend this year's conference. Because of a substantial donation from Archbishop John Myers on behalf of the Archdiocese of Newark, we were able to scholarship all of the vocation directors who applied for financial assistance.



Sister Diane Poplawski, OP, Executive Director

National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV)



The National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV) is the largest not-for-profit publisher and distributor of Catholic Church vocation resources in the United States. We are your one-stop shopping center for vocation materials.

Members of NCCV are the: National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), J. S. Paluch Company, Inc., Priests of the Sacred Heart, Rogationist Fathers, and the USA Council of Serra International.

NCCV continues to add new resources in addition to the approximately 300 resources in the Vocation Resource Catalog (VRC). Our secure website, www.nccv-vocations.org, carries the complete VRC online where we regularly post new materials. Some new resources include: Jesus Calls Women (DVD), Vocation Pocket Notes (In memoriam of Sr. Peter Mary Hettling, CSJ), Poster Lesson Plans, and an ornament I Have Called You by Name. Presently NCCV is also carrying The Calling (DVD), and book: Whispers, Nudges, and a Couple of Kicks: A Guide for Those Who Teach and Practice Discernment. This book is authored by Melanie-Préjean Sullivan, a workshop presenter at the 2008 NRVC convocation. Some of our popular resources are being translated into Spanish and Polish. If you have developed vocation materials, consider marketing them through NCCV. Please contact us if you have found helpful materials so we can make

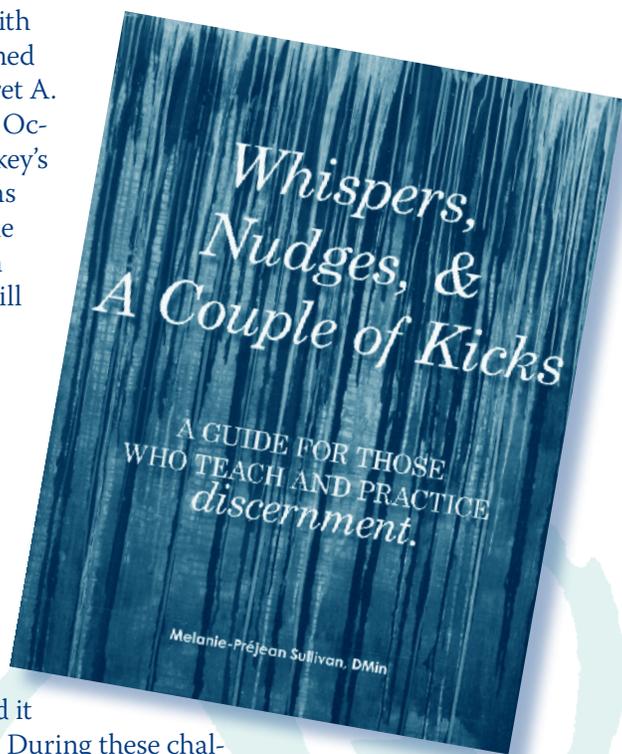
them available to other vocation ministers. We welcome your ideas for new resources.

NCCV, along with many others, mourned the death of Margaret A. “Mickey” Paluch on October 12, 2009. Mickey’s support for vocations was extravagant. The 2011-2012 Vocation Resource Catalog will be dedicated to her memory.

NCCV receives financial support from sales, appeals, and grants. An anonymous donor allowed NCCV to provide a free copy of the Jesus Calls Women DVD to those who requested it (while supplies last). During these challenging economic times, funding is crucial to our success and we are constantly seeking various means to increase our income and financial support.

NCCV is grateful for our many collaborative relationships, especially with NRVC staff and members. We hope that our ministry of service assists you in your vocation ministry efforts.

We welcome your suggestions and comments.



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Sister Violet Grennan, MFIC, Executive Director

Religious Formation Conference (RFC)



Congress 2009: It was a pleasure to have Bro. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, executive director of NRVC and Sister Maria Hughes, ASC, director of the Institute of Religious Formation at Catholic Theological Union, present a Congress 2009 seminar titled Vocation and Formation Ministry: The Ties

was with great joy and deep gratitude that we presented our recently published history: Religious Formation Conference 1954-2004. The history exquisitely captures the visionary and courageous spirit of the early women religious who were instrumental in bringing to birth the Sister Formation Conference. Karen Kennelly, CSJ, author of the fine work, was among our special Congress guests and autographed numerous copies of the history.



Restructuring the Conference continued at the national office in 2009 as we hired a full-time development director and a program director. In consultation with the Board and an interdisciplinary advisory council, we initiated a review of all RFC programs in light of current realities facing religious life in the Church and US society. The 2009 Life Commitment Program was revised and titled it: Embracing Religious Life as a Prophetic Enterprise in the 21st Century. Twenty-four women and men participated in the program and spoke of the experience as immensely challenging. The program review will continue through 2010.

There is no doubt religious life in the US is at a critical point in history – an “in-between” time – a time of transition and perhaps transformation. As we embrace the future, and articulate a vision for the next 3-5 years, we remember the significant and positive impact the RFC has had on the renewal and development of religious life in the US for more than fifty years. Rooted in the Gospel and called by God’s prophetic Spirit, we remain attentive to the nudging of this Spirit and the needs of our members as we discern a chosen future for contemporary religious life.

As we embrace the future, and articulate a vision for the next 3-5 years, we remember the significant and positive impact the RFC has had on the renewal and development of religious life in the US for more than fifty years.

that Bind or Unbind. The workshop, which was very well received, addressed a number of pertinent topics including: discernment, models and processes of transition in formation, decision-making and consistency of program goals and objectives. We look forward to similar opportunities for collaboration between partnering organizations.

Participants at Congress 2009 included formation personnel engaged in the ministry of initial and life-long formation, and a significant number of vocation ministers and elected leadership. The RFC Board and I remain fully committed to pursuing opportunities for further collaboration with partnering organizations

A final note related to Congress 2009. It



Ms. Dolores Orzel, Creative Director

National Vocations Awareness Division, J.S. Paluch Co.



The National Vocations Awareness Division (NVAD) of the J.S. Paluch Company grew from the inspiration, vision, and devotion to church vocations of Margaret “Mickey” Paluch. In October of 2009, Mickey passed away and we feel her loss deeply. We continue to dedicate our efforts to carrying on her mission and commitment to vocation awareness.

NVAD hosted the 22nd annual J.S. Paluch Vocations Awareness Seminar from August 17-19, 2009, at the Embassy Suites Hotel O’Hare in Rosemont, Illinois. Most Rev. Roger L. Schwietz, OMI, Archbishop of Anchorage, delivered the keynote address at this year’s seminar entitled A Collaborative Community Creating a Culture of Vocations. Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Sr. Mary Bendyna, RSM, CARA Executive Director, and Very Rev. Thomas Dragga, Rector of Borromeo College Seminary, presented results from current studies on recent vocations to religious life and psychological assessment policies and practices for candidates for priesthood. Mr. Dominic Perri of Essential Conversations Group served as facilitator.

The 2009 seminar broadened the invitation base to extend collaborative efforts in support of vocations. Participants included representatives from the United States Catholic Bishops Conference (USCCB), the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Catholic Network of Volunteer Service (CNVS), National Communicators’ Network of Women Religious (NCNWR), National Association of Diocesan Directors (NADD), National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association (NCYAMA), National Conference of Vicars for Religious (NCVR), Catholic Campus Ministry Association (CCMA), Christian Family Movement (CFM), National

Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), United States Conference of Secular Institutes (US-CSI), National Federation of Priests’ Councils (NFPC), Serra USA, National Black Catholic Congress (NBCC), Institute for Religious Life (IRL), the Canadian National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (NAVFD), the Seminary Department of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), and the executive directors and boards of NRVC, NCDVD, and NCCV. The Paluch Company covered all seminar, lodging, and travel expenses.

The JSP 2010 Vocation: Radiant Faith and the 2011 Vocation: Come and Follow calendars continue a series encouraging vocations through brief biographies of holy men and women whose response to the gospel inspired others. The JSP Vocation, Religious Art, and Scenic Catholic calendars include a monthly vocation prayer. Our Stewardship: A Way of Life calendar emphasizes our responsibility for the earth and assists parishes and organizations in their stewardship efforts.

The NVAD supports vocation ministry all year through projects and sponsorships and in consultation with The Paluch Family Foundation. For more information, please go to www.jspaluch.com and click on the National Vocations Awareness and Paluch Family Foundation links.

We look forward to another year of collaboration with the NRVC staff, leadership team, board, regional coordinators, and members.



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Father Kevin DePrinzio, OSA +
Sister Patricia Donlin, RSM ++
Sister Margaret Michael Gillis, FSP
Mrs. Maryellen Glackin
Brother Joseph Jozwiak, FSC ++
Sister Mary Beth Kubera, DC ++
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Sister Angele Lewis, SNDdeN +
Father Martin Lukas, OSFS
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Sister Teri Wall, OP ++
Sister Andrea Westkamp, SMIC ++
Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, executive director
Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, secretary

+ Began term in fall 2009

++ Completed term in fall 2009

* Member of NRVC Leadership Team

Financial Report and Membership

REVENUE

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Workshops and Programs | \$ 147,969 |
| Contributions | 67,497 |
| Membership Dues | 83,214 |
| Commissions | 70,731 |
| Resources | 7,362 |
| Publications | 40,485 |
| Contributed Services | 42,987 |
| Grants | 58,661 |
| Investment Gain | 53,044 |
| Other | 1,707 |

Total Revenue \$ 573,657

EXPENSES

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Personnel | \$ 190,068 |
| Workshops and Programs | 96,165 |
| Administrative | 73,847 |
| Publications | 52,524 |
| Resources | 4,933 |
| National Board/Leadership | 22,236 |
| Committees | 5,951 |
| Grants | 52,672 |
| Contributed Services | |
| Board Meeting | 9,222 |
| Public Relations | 10,900 |
| Website & Publications | 7,267 |
| Administrative | 4,176 |
| Programs | 11,422 |
| Total | 42,987 |

Total Expenses \$ 541,383

TOTAL INCOME (\$ 32,274)

2009 NRVC Membership

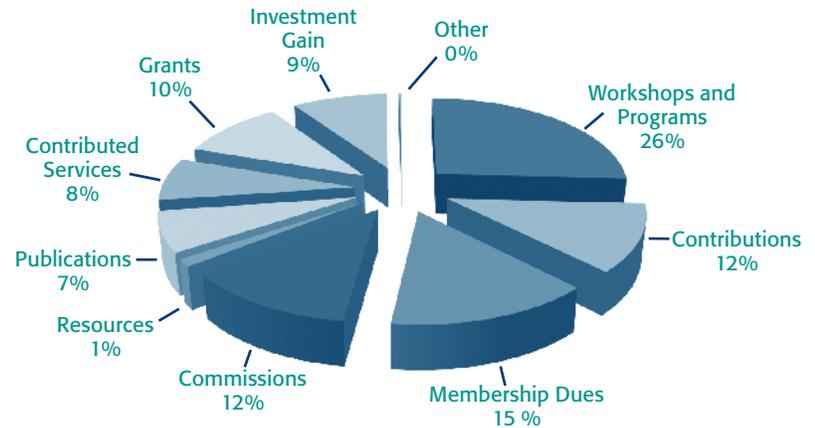
| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Professional | 451 |
| Associate | 97 |
| Group Associate | 488 |
| Partner | 13 |

TOTAL 1,049

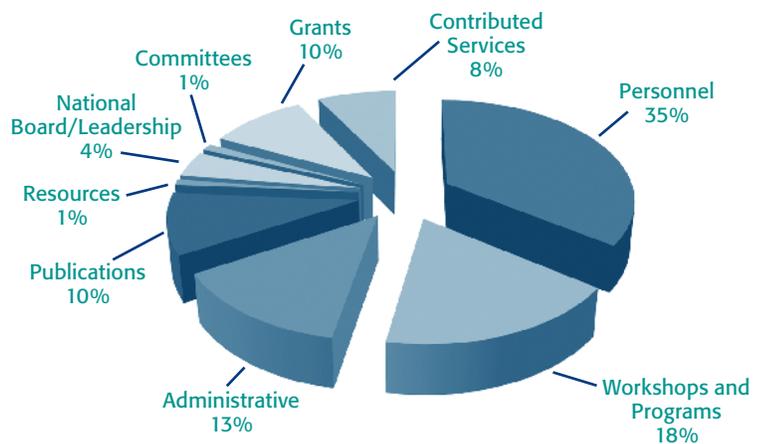
The total membership reflects the following groups:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Sisters | 794 |
| Priests | 156 |
| Brothers | 59 |
| Deacons | 3 |
| Laywomen | 29 |
| Laymen | 8 |
| International Members | 78 |
| (representing 27 countries) | |
| Diocesan Vocations Offices | 20 |
| Vicars for Religious | 6 |
| Secular Institutes | 2 |
| Organizations | 3 |

REVENUE



EXPENSES



NRVC ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director
 Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, Associate Director
 Ms. Debbie Prieto, Administrative Assistant
 Mr. Albert Spenadel, Finance Coordinator
 Ms. Carol Schuck-Scheiber, Publications Editor (not pictured)

NRVC is grateful for the generosity of our benefactors who contribute to our organization in grants, in-kind services and financial donations.

The following list reflects all gifts received from February 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Any donation or service received after that time will be included in next year's 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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St. Bonaventure, NY
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Little Falls, MN
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St. Louis, MO
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St. Louis, MO
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St. Louis, MO
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Baltimore, MD

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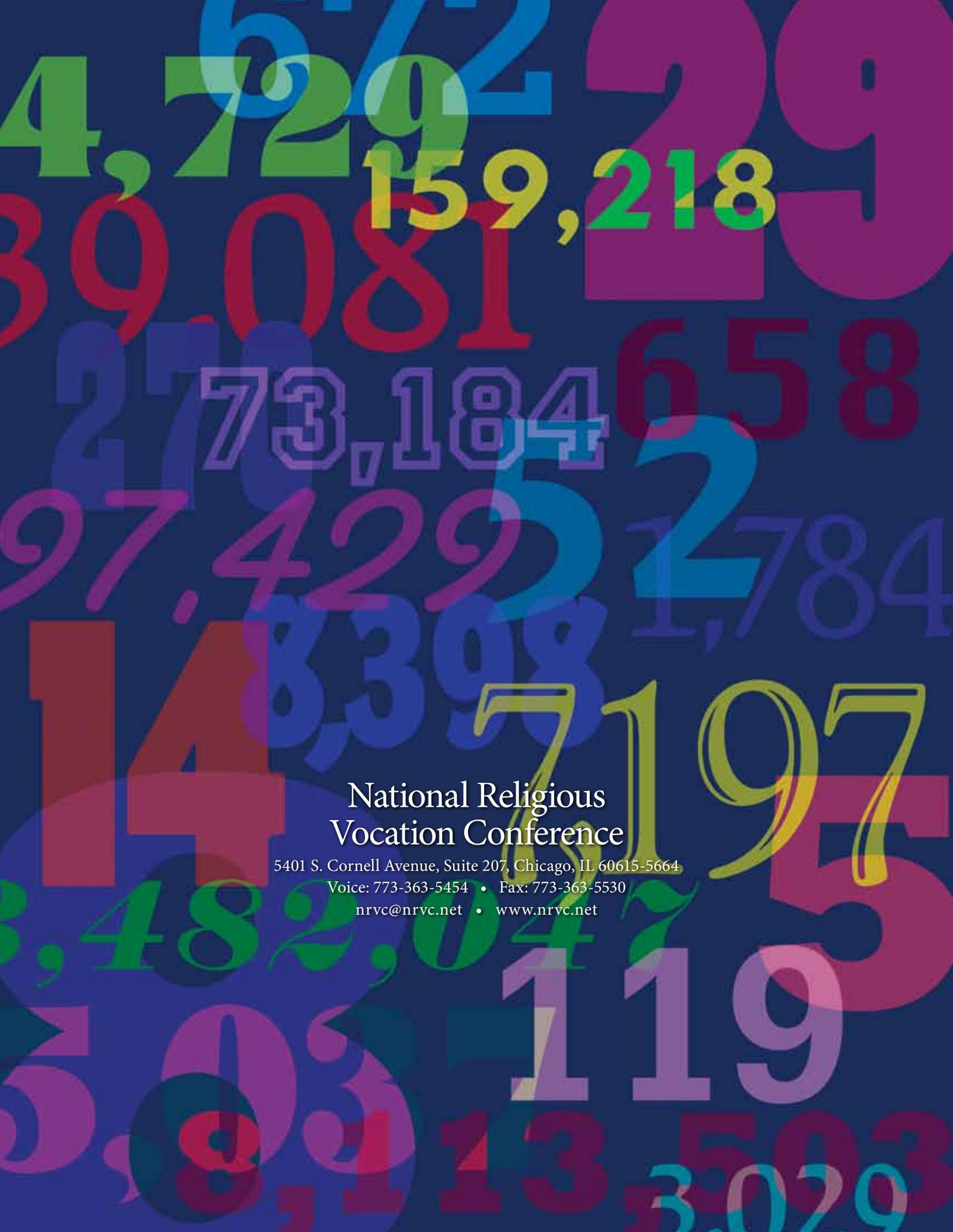
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