



**NRVC**  
National Religious  
Vocation Conference

# 2021 ANNUAL REPORT



Agile response  
amid global challenges



# 2021 OVERVIEW

## Agile response amid global challenges

Dear NRVC members, friends, and benefactors,

AS I ASSUMED THE POSITION of NRVC Board Chair in 2021, I chose the Sankofa as the inspiration for my tenure. The Sankofa is a mythical bird that symbolizes the ancient African Akan people's quest for knowledge. The word *Sankofa* is formed from *san* ("return"), *ko* ("go"), and *fa* ("look, seek, and take"). The Sankofa has its feet firmly planted forward with its head turned backwards. Thus, the Akan believe the past serves as a guide for planning the future. To the Akan, it is this wisdom in learning from the past which ensures a strong future.



Sister Mindy Welding, I.H.M.  
NRVC Board Chair

My I.H.M. Congregation took this lesson to heart as we celebrated our 175th Anniversary in 2021.

We examined our pained past and looked forward to a renewed and healing future. The National Religious Vocation Conference went through a similar exercise in this past year: looking to the past, taking what is good and essential and determining the best path forward amid a global pandemic. We were quick in our response to a very fluid situation and continued our work in virtual settings all while exploring the



questions of how to reach out beyond our borders, inconveniences, and disturbances. The NRVC Board and staff took time to explore new approaches to expressing our commitment to intercultural diversity, inclusion, and equity, including working with an Intercultural Assessment Tool that brought us a renewed commitment to a Board committee devoted to incorporating diversity within the organization.

Throughout 2021, NRVC created many opportunities that united us online and allowed members to continue to benefit through education and engagement. Much to our surprise, opportunities accompanied these difficulties, especially in the ways we were able to expand access and participation in NRVC offerings, both through virtual gatherings and Misericordia scholarships.

We are grateful for the financial support members and leaders provide to the Misericordia Scholarship Fund and for their support of NRVC programs, resources, and publications. We also thank the Board and staff for their personal commitment, integrity, and creative input.

**As a membership organization NRVC is always moving, growing, and changing!**

Finally, we are grateful to each one of you, members and friends of the NRVC, for sharing the gift of yourself. We see great hope in our present and future because of you!

Peace to you and in the world,

Sister Mindy Welding, I.H.M.  
NRVC National Board Chair



Through its research, webinars, workshops, and resources, the NRVC continues to grow and nurture an intercultural approach to vocation ministry.

## Religious Life Today storymap

The *Religious Life Today* storymap, introduced in the spring of 2021, added depth and dimension to the findings of the 2020 NRVC *Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life*. Combining text, photos, videos, graphs, and maps to provide rich, interactive detail to the study results, the storymap provided NRVC members and others to engage a wider audience, including discerners, parishes, schools, and donors, to tell the good news of religious life today through a narrative of abundant hope. The NRVC is most grateful to the GHR Foundation and to the work of the design team:

- Mr. Phil Loftus, NRVC Development Director, Storymap Team Leader
- Ms. Marge Argyelan, NRVC Director of Database Administration
- Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., NRVC Director of Mission Integration
- Mrs. Maureen Cetera, NRVC Director of Finance and Operations
- Sr. Charlene Herinckx, S.S.M.O., Director of Membership
- Sr. Lisa Laguna, D.C., NRVC Board Member
- Miss Xiuxia Liu, Cartographer
- Mr. Curtis Long, CEO ideaPort Web Service
- Sr. Belinda Monahan, O.S.B., NRVC Board Member
- Ms. Patrice Tuohy, CEO TrueQuest Communications



## Webinar series: *Religious Life Today: Learn It! Love It! Live It!*

In its desire to amplify the results of the 2020 *Study on Recent Vocations to Religious Life*, the GHR Foundation also provided funding for a webinar series on religious life today. The six-part series, *Religious Life: Learn it, Love it, Live it!*, launched in the fall of 2021 with its first two webinars.

- “Fundamentals from call to charism to community living,” featuring panelists: Sr. Julie Vieira, I.H.M., Sr. Katia Chavez, S.J.S., Br. Kyle Mena, F.S.C., and Fr. Luis Romero, C.M.
- “Using all avenues to support vocation ministry,” presented by Sr. Donna DelSanto, S.S.J. and Fr. Tom McCarthy, O.S.A.

The remaining webinars are scheduled through June of 2022.

## 1,000 MEMBERS

820 License members  
140 Single members  
40 Collaborators & staff

266 Institutes  
36 Organizations  
8 Dioceses  
2 Foundations

653 Sisters  
191 Priests & deacons  
79 Brothers  
77 Laypeople

23 Countries represented\*

\* Australia, Bangladesh, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, France, Ghana, Honduras, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, Uganda, U.K., U.S.A., and Zambia





# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



*I just want to thank you for making me a participant in this informative and delightful webinar, "Navigating Uncertainty with Young People." It is always an enticement to see all those who are in the front line of vocations ministry. I am so happy to see how they are empowering themselves with the right tools to be a bridge and to reach out not only to young people, but to all those who receive the call to Religious Life.*

Sr. MARTHA TERESA GOMEZ, R.G.S.,  
Delegate for Consecrated Life Office,  
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

## Talk It Up Tuesdays

Throughout the winter months, 108 NRVC members met virtually through weekly *Talk It Up Tuesdays* Zoom gatherings. This new initiative allowed members to learn, discuss, and connect during the global shut down. Focusing on a topic in vocation ministry, sessions consisted of short presentations, breakout groups, and large group sharing. Thank you to the following presenters:

- Br. John Eustice, C.S.V. and Mr. Daniel Masterton for "Intentional Approaches to Engage Young Adults"
- Sr. Julia Walsh, F.S.P.A. for "Planning Virtual Retreats"
- Sr. Jill Reuber, O.S.B. for "Using What's App Chat"
- Sr. Mary Jo Curtsinger, C.S.J. for "Expanding vocation promotion through the lens of charism"
- Sr. Tarianne DeYonker, O.P. for "Involving vowed membership in key relationships with inquirers"
- Sr. Michele Fisher, C.S.F.N. for "Creative Connections: Enhancing Your Discernment Activities"
- Sr. Ana Cecilia Montalvo, F.Sp.S. for "Life Awareness Virtual Discernment Retreats"
- Br. Alan Parham, F.S.C. for "Using Music in Vocation Discernment"
- Sr. Christine Still, O.S.F. for "Virtual, Virtual, Virtual... Let's make it fun and informative: Virtual Visits and Virtual Pilgrimages"



Second "Talk It Up, Tuesday" gathering, where members shared their ideas on *Fratelli Tutti*.

## Summer Institute

The NRVC offered four virtual workshops for 175 participants from the U.S. as well as 21 international participants from Canada, Hong Kong, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, New Zealand, Nova Scotia, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

- Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors
- "Behavioral Assessment 1" Workshop
- "Ethical Issues in Vocation and Formation Ministry" Workshop
- "Is it Generational, Cultural, or Family of Origin Issues in Candidate Assessment?" Workshop



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



Due to the generosity of the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, the NRVC was able to invite 22 participants from the Asociación de Hermanas Latinas Misioneras en America, the Canadian National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors, the National Black Sisters Conference, the National Conference of Vicars for Religious, and Vocations Ireland, to participate in Summer Institute workshops.



Summer Institute Care Packages.

We are grateful to the following presenters: Dr. Ansel Augustine, Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., Rev. Raymond P. Carey, Sr. Bea Eichten, O.S.F., Sr. Charlene Herinckx, S.S.M.O., Fr. Adam MacDonald, S.V.D., Sr. Maria Nguyen, O.S.B., Br. Chris Patiño, F.S.C., and Sr. Mindy Welding, I.H.M. We also thank Ms. Marge Argyelan for her work as moderator.

## Fall Institute

The NRVC offered 3 virtual workshops and one webinar for 163 participants including 11 international participants from Canada, India, Ireland, Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Zimbabwe.

- Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors
- "Behavioral Assessment 1" Workshop
- "Behavioral Assessment 2" Workshop
- "Navigating Uncertainty with Young People through Accompaniment" Webinar

Funding from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation allowed NRVC to invite eight participants from the National Conference of Vicars for Religious, and Vocations Ireland to participate in Fall Institute workshops. NRVC extends its thanks to Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., Rev. Raymond P. Carey, Fr. Adam MacDonald, S.V.D., Br. Mark Motz, S.M., and Dr. Josh Packard for their presentations and to Ms. Marge Argyelan for her work as moderator.

Fall Institute Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors via Zoom.



**The NRVC increases visibility and awareness of the organization to fulfill its mission to serve as a catalyst for religious vocations.**

## Committee and event participation

Throughout the year, the NRVC is invited by various members, collaborators, and organizations to present, consult, and participate in various events to provide professional development, best practices, and shared wisdom to animate the elements of vocation ministry: encounter, invitation, and accompaniment.

- Brothers Think Tank
- Catholic Campus Ministry Association Virtual Conference
- Catholic Sisters Week
- Communicators for Women Religious Virtual Conference
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men Virtual Assembly
- Conference of Major Superiors of Men, Post-Pandemic Working Group
- Conrad N. Hilton Webinars
- Entrelazando Culturas Advisory Committee
- LA Religious Education Virtual Congress
- Leadership Conference of Major Superiors of Women, Virtual Assembly
- Leadership Roundtable, Virtual Summit
- National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors, Virtual Convention
- National Conference of Vicars for Religious, Virtual Conference with an NRVC update
- National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministers, Annual Membership Meeting
- National Leader Network for the National Dialogue
- Religious Brothers Day, Virtual Celebration with CMSM, RBC, and RFC
- Resource Center for Religious Institutes, Virtual Conference
- Weaving Cultures: Virtual Intercultural Competencies Assessment workshop
- World Day for Consecrated Life Virtual Celebration through the Lens of *Fratelli Tutti* with CMSM, LCWR, NRVC, RBC, and RFC

**25TH WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE THROUGH THE LENS OF FRATELLI TUTTI**

A reflection on Consecrated Life by newer members in light of the Gospel call presented in *Fratelli Tutti*. There will be time for prayer, listening, and small group conversation.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 | 6:00-7:00PM CT | ONLINE VIA ZOOM

 Sr. Celia Ashton, OCD Carmelite Sisters of Baltimore	 Br. Joseph Bach, OSF Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn	 Rev. Steve Dos Santos, CPDS, Missionaries of the Precious Blood
 Sr. Leslie Keener, CDP Congregation of Divine Providence, Melbourne, KY	 Br. Chris Patiño, F.S.C. De La Salle Christian Brothers	 Sr. Nicole Trahan, F.M.I. Marianist Sisters, Daughters of Mary Immaculate

Free and open to all. Registration required.  
[www.cmsm.org/event/consecratedlife2021](http://www.cmsm.org/event/consecratedlife2021)

Event co-sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), Religious Brothers Conference (RBC), and the Religious Formation Conference (RFC).

The NRVC was among the sponsoring organizations for a special reflection in honor of the 25th World Day of Consecrated Life.



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



NRVC Board Vice Chair Fr. Adam McDonald, S.V.D., and NRVC Director of Mission Integration Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M. at a consultation with the De La Salle Christian Brothers.

on “Risking Hope: A formation day on the deep sense of ecclesial co-responsibility for vocations”

- Leadership Conference of Major Superiors of Women, presentation for “Discerning our Emerging Future” as part of the *Lean in towards the Light* series
- Maryknoll Sisters, presentation on “Accompaniment, Assessment and Admission” with MM Sisters from Brazil, East Timor, Hong Kong, Kenya, Philippines, Tanzania, United States, and Zimbabwe
- NRVC Midwest Member Area, presentation on “Due Diligence in Vocation Ministry”
- National Association of Vocation/Formation Directors of Canada, Virtual Workshop Presentation on “Due Diligence in Vocation Ministry”
- Presentation Sisters Union, webinar on “Accompaniment, Assessment, and Application” with PBVM Sisters from Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Slovakia, Zambia, and Zimbabwe
- Saint Vincent de Paul/Blessed Sacrament Parish Mission on “Listening for God’s Call, Responding to God’s Call and Living God’s Call”
- Sisters of the Redeemer, Chapter presentation on “Drawn by Redeeming Love to a Future Full of Hope”
- Southwest Inter-Community Pre-Novitiate, presentation on “Communication and Community Life”

The NRVC extends its appreciation to the following presenters: Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M., Sr. Charlene Herinckx, S.S.M.O., Sr. Lisa Laguna, DC, Fr. Adam MacDonald, S.V.D., Sr. Maria Nguyen, O.S.B., Ms. Carol Schuck Scheiber, and Sr. Mary Yun, O.P.

## Presentations and Consultations

- Communicators for Women Religious webinar on “Data you need to know for vocation communications”
- De LaSalle Christian Brothers, Midwest, Consultation on “Vocation Ministry Strategic Planning”
- De La Salle Christian Brothers, San Francisco-New Orleans, Consultation Dialogue
- Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Infant Jesus, presentation

2021 Fall Board Meeting with Board Members, NRVC Team Leaders, and HORIZON, VISION, and NRVC.net staffs







## The NRVC enhances collaborative efforts for engaging the young church in discerning and impacting the future of religious life.

### Collaborative connections

Together, with the following organizations, the NRVC is committed to ongoing efforts to foster a culture of vocations in a spirit of collaboration, joy, and hope to inspire and be inspired by the minds and hearts of the young Church.

#### United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

##### EPISCOPAL LIAISON

The NRVC is grateful for Archbishop Charles C. Thompson who is the episcopal liaison to the National Religious Vocation Conference at the appointment of Bishop James Checchio, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations (CCLV).

##### USCCB SECRETARIAT OF CLERGY, CONSECRATED LIFE, AND VOCATIONS

The NRVC attended the annual meeting virtually on November 3, 2021, represented by Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M. The agenda addressed the effects of the pandemic on various organizations through the lens of evangelization.

##### USCCB, SECRETARIAT OF LAITY, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

The NRVC was invited to a listening session on August 31, 2021, by the USCCB, Secretariat of Laity, Youth, and Young Adult Ministry, focused on the draft of the Bishops Working Group in their development of the *National Pastoral Framework on Youth and Young Adults*. This document will integrate the major themes of *Christus Vivit*, Convocation of Catholic Leaders, XV Synod, V Encuentro, National Dialogue, and Journeying Together. Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M. represented the NRVC.

#### National Dialogue on Catholic Pastoral Ministry with Youth and Young Adults

The NRVC was involved in a three-year process contributing to the National Dialogue and the final report was released on February 22, 2021. This report reaffirmed the need for broad vocation guidance and shed light on the complex reality of what young people are experiencing and asking of the Church. It is estimated that almost 10,000 individuals were reached in about 450 recorded National Dialogue conversations.



*I appreciated that the Orientation Program for New Vocation Directors did not so much focus on “strategies” for recruitment as it did in “building up” our identity as vocation ministers. I also appreciated our reflections on Pope Francis’s Christus Vivit. The people we minister to, or we are seeking, really are seeking God. So, in a way, vocation ministry is an answer to a deep need to discover God’s call. It is not as mechanical and business-like as it is sometimes made out to be.”*

BR. DANIELE CAGLIONI, A.A.



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



*I have learned so much during my time on the NRVC Board about the beauty and power of what we can create together. To think that we each get to play a part in the ways the NRVC holds the space for women and men, religious and lay, to be about the work of the flourishing of religious life... it's simply incredible.*

SR. KRISTIN MATTHES, SNDden  
Outgoing Board Chair

## Ministry Training Source Research

The NRVC and other national organizations are partnering with Ministry Training Source in a National Research Study on Catholic Youth and Young Adult Ministry Leaders in the United States. This research aims to prepare the Church for the emerging generation of ministry leaders who are considered a part of Gen Z. Ministry Training Source has studied longitudinally the fields of Catholic youth and young adult ministry leaders since 2001. The primary researcher is Ms. Charlotte McCorquodale, PhD, who presented at the 2019 Fall Institute.

## Collaborating Organizations

The NRVC has traditionally enjoyed the collaboration and support of other national organizations within the Church. The groups featured include those organizations or focus groups whose concerns, projects, and events are consistent with the NRVC mission, vision, and goals.

Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM)  
Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL)  
Council of Major Superiors of Women (CMSWR)  
Leadership Conference for Women Religious (LCWR)  
National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD)  
Religious Formation Conference (RFC)  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (USCCB-CCLV)

## Partner Organizations

A Nun's Life Ministry  
Catholic Campus Ministry Association  
Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.  
Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate  
Communicators for Women Religious  
Giving Voice  
Mexican American Catholic College  
National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry  
Religious Brothers Conference  
Resource Center for Religious Institutes

## Foundations and Benefactors

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
GHR Foundation

## Resource Organizations

Asociación de Hermanas Latinas Misioneras en America  
Catholic Theological Union  
Center for the Study of Consecrated Life



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



Institute for Religious Formation  
Giving Voice  
National Black Sisters Conference  
National Conference of Vicars for Religious  
Praesidium  
USA Council of Serra International

## International Resource Organizations

National Association of Vocation/Formation Directors of Canada  
Office of Vocations, Bishops' Conference of England and Wales  
Vocations Ireland

## The NRVC creates the organizational structure and financial model needed to grow.

To celebrate the charism of each Catholic religious institute as part of the mission of Jesus, the NRVC Board, along with its Committees and Member Area Coordinators, are responsible to build for the future of the NRVC in its leadership, mission, and vision.

## NRVC Board

The National Board met via Zoom on March 10-12, 2021, to elect four new board members: Mrs. Nancy Costello; Sr. Nicole Trahan, F.M.I.; Sr. Mary Yun, O.P.; Sr. Cheryl Wint, O.S.F.

At its spring meeting, the National Board approved the updated Charters for the following standing committees: African American Vocation Committee, Development Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, and Governance Committee. The ad hoc Cultural Diversity Committee was invited to create a Charter for approval at the next meeting. The Board also completed a self-assessment and full Board evaluation.

With gratitude for the outgoing Board Chair: Sr. Kristin Matthes, SNDdeN, Vice Chairs: Sr. Virginia Herbers, A.S.C.J. and Fr. Adam

A moment of levity at the 2021 Spring Board Meeting.



MacDonald, S.V.D., the Board elected a new Board Chair: Sr. Mindy Welding, I.H.M., and Vice Chairs: Sr. Belinda Monahan, O.S.B., and Fr. Adam MacDonald, S.V.D. Additionally, the Board thanked Sr. Lisa Laguna, D.C. for completing her term on the Board.

During the virtual autumn meeting, Sept. 21-23, 2021, the National Board and staff met with Dr. Mylon Kirsky, Ed.D., president of Sidebar Educating Consulting Group, LLC, to participate in an Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI). Board and staff completed a survey that measures diversity, equity, and inclusion. Kirsky compiled a group profile and gave a presentation on the topic of the Intercultural Development Continuum (IDC). Each person received a one-on-one consultation to provide key insights and create an intercultural development plan. This consultation was funded by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

## 2021 Board of Directors

Sr. María de Jesús Bringas Aguirre, C.C.V.I.

Mrs. Nancy Costello+

Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez, R.G.S.

Fr. Charles Johnson, O.P.

Fr. Adam MacDonald, S.V.D.\*

Sr. Belinda Monahan, O.S.B.\*

Br. Brian Poulin, F.M.S.

Sr. Nicole Trahan, F.M.I.+

Mr. Len Uhal

Sr. Mindy Welding, I.H.M.\*

Sr. Cheryl Wint, O.S.F.+

Sr. Mary Yun, O.P.+

Sr. Deborah Borneman, SS.C.M.  
*ex officio*\*

Sr. Virginia Herbers, A.S.C.J.++

Sr. Lisa Laguna, D.C.++

Sr. Kristin Matthes, SNDdeN++

+ started term Fall 2021

++ ended term Fall 2021

\* NRVC executive committee



## Committees

Committees serve as catalysts and advocates for relevant issues making recommendations to the National Board regarding appropriate procedures, research, and development of particular projects.

### AFRICAN AMERICAN VOCATION COMMITTEE

Sr. Gayle Lwanga Crumbley, R.G.S. (Chair); Sr. Josita Colbert, SNDdeN; Sr. Patricia Dual, O.P.; Sr. Desiré Findlay, C.S.S.F., Sr. Magdala Marie Gilbert, O.S.P.; Sr. Chala Marie Hill, F.H.M.; Fr. Douglas McMillan, O.F.M. Conv.; Sr. Laura Mercier, S.S.F., and Deacon Mel Tardy



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

## DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Mr. Len Uhal (Chair), Ms. Katharine Barth, Mr. Phil Loftus, Fr. Adam MacDonald, S.V.D., and Mr. Guy Vaccaro

## FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NRVC's 2021 Finance Advisory Committee members:  
Br. Brian Poulin, F.M.S. (Chair), Mrs. Maureen Cetera, Mr. Mark Alaimo, Mr. Dan Brown, Sr. Charlene Herinckx, S.S.M.O., Mr. Len Uhal

## GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Sr. Virginia Herbers, A.S.C.J., (Chair), Br. David Caretti, F.S.C., Sr. Lisa Laguna, D.C., Sr. Belinda Monahan, O.S.B., Sr. Mindy Welding, I.H.M., and Ms. Marge Argyelan

## INTERCULTURAL DIVERSITY AD HOC COMMITTEE

Sr. María de Jesús Bringas Aguirre, C.C.V.I. (Chair), Br. Joseph Bach, O.S.F., Sr. Jean Marie Fernandez, R.G.S., Sr. Charlene Herinckx, S.S.M.O., Fr. Charlie Johnson, O.P., Sr. Miriam Mitchell, S.H.Sp., Br. Mark Motz, S.M., Br. Chris Patiño, F.S.C., and Sr. Cheryl Wint, O.S.F.

## Member Areas

The NRVC has 13 Member Areas designated for local networking and professional development. As a benefit of membership, NRVC members may attend events in any Member Area. Each Member Area selects two coordinators to serve a two-year term. The Member Area Coordinators

gathered virtually and at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, AZ Dec. 13-16, 2021 for prayer, professional development, and updates. As part of their time together, they participated in a vocation pilgrimage to Mission San Xavier and St. Augustine Cathedral.

## Member Area Coordinators

Sr. Connie Bach, P.H.J.C.+	Br. Mark Motz, S.M.
Br. Joseph Bach, O.S.F.	Br. Chris Patiño, F.S.C.
Sr. Barbara Bartlett, S.H.C.J.++	Sr. Kathleen Persson, O.S.B.+
Ms. Lori Bengé	Mrs. Sandy Piwko+
Sr. Colleen Brady, O.S.F.	Sr. Jill Reuber, O.S.B.+
Sr. Kathleen Branham, O.S.F.	Sr. Mary Rowell, C.S.J.+
Mrs. Margaret Cartwright+	Sr. Monica Seaton, O.S.U.
Sr. Julian Cleary, O.S.B.	Sr. Teresa Shields, S.N.J.M.
Sr. Maria Victoria Cutaia, O.S.B.	Sr. Stephanie Spandl, S.S.N.D.
Mr. Gregory Darr	Sr. Christine Still, O.S.F.++
Sr. Kathy Farrelly, O. Carm.	Sr. Nancy Uhl, SNDdeN
Sr. June Fitzgerald, O.P.	Sr. Bridget Waldorf, S.S.N.D.
Sr. Marianne Lallone, I.H.M.	Sr. Jennifer Zimmerman, S.N.D.
Sr. Judy Long, O.C.D.	
Sr. Mary O'Donovan, O. Carm.	+ began term Summer 2021
Sr. Barbara O'Kane, M.P.F.	++ ended term Summer 2021

## Commitment to longterm strategies

The NRVC staff continued to work with consultant, Mr. Mike Tobin of Vantage Leadership, to facilitate its quarterly visioning strategic planning days to focus on the pillars of the leadership model: member focused, mission driven, accountable, and leaderful.

NRVC Board and staff with Member Area coordinators in Tuscon, AZ.





# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



Member Area Coordinators work on a collaborative exercise at their 2021 gathering in Tucson.

## Convocation 2022



In December 2021 NRVC unveiled the logo and theme “Call beyond Borders” for the 2022 Convocation. The in-person event is to be held at the Davenport Grand Hotel in Spokane WA, Nov. 3-6, 2022. Sponsorships accepted. Registration will open in Spring 2022.

## NFCRV update

In 2021 NRVC members were awarded \$42,750 in educational debt relief through the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations for two candidates to religious life. These funds enabled the candidates to discern their call free from the worry of student loan payments. The NFCRV is grateful to the Helen Brach Foundation and the National Council of Catholic Women for their continued support of our mission.



Since its inception, the NFCRV has granted \$980,317 toward the educational debt of more than 49 candidates to religious life. All of this is done as a benefit of NRVC membership and through the generosity of our supporters and benefactors. The grant application period runs from January to April each year. Learn more at [NFCRV.org](https://nfcrv.org).



*Talk It Up Tuesdays promoted networking and the sharing of ideas through the creativity of NRVC members who add life to this important ministry. We are called to be open to the Spirit, and the Spirit is very active in the NRVC!*

FR. JOHN SCHORK, C.P.  
Passionists of Holy Cross Province



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

## Letter from Director of Development



THE NRVC CONTINUES to be a vital organization. Our success is driven by a spirit of community among all who help promote vocations and allow us to provide the programs and tools to invite women and men to consider religious life.

We are grateful to our members for their participation in our mission; to religious institutes for their support, to individual donors for their generosity, and, of course, to the GHR Foundation and Conrad N. Hilton Foundations, who provided the seed money for many of our important initiatives, including the creation of our *Religious Life Today* storymap and webinars, our *Abundant Hope* videos, and workshop scholarships, and various consultations for NRVC staff Team Leaders, Board, and Member Area Coordinators. Thank you all!

Each day we are given the gift of that day's new creation. 2021 was a year filled with many "new creations" in which we discovered the NRVC as a membership organization is always moving, growing, and changing.

The year included a physical office move to space

that was more efficient given the work-from-home model necessary during the pandemic. We also grew our team leadership and welcomed a new Director of Membership, Sr. Charlene Herinckx, S.S.M.O., who helped with the planning of our *Religious Life Today* webinar series made possible by a grant from the GHR Foundation. Finally, we changed the way we delivered inspiration and learning for our members with Zoom events throughout the year.

Stewardship is nothing more than love in action, and as Saint Paul reminds us: "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us exercise them . . . Love one another with mutual affection; anticipate one another in showing honor" (Rom. 12:6, 10).

We strive to honor all of our NRVC members and friends and the many gifts shared with us by meeting the challenges of our daily work with love and a creative response for the good of God's Church.

Sincerely,

Phil Loftus  
NRVC Director of Development

The NRVC Board and staff celebrated Director of Mission Integration Sr. Deborah Borneman SS.C.M.'s 10th anniversary with a special video tribute.





# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES



## Publications

DAILY | WEEKLY | MONTHLY | ANNUALLY | EVERGREEN

### Daily posts | 30,741 visitors

The NRVC.net **website** houses essential resources for members, including archived studies and publications, Membership Directory, and Vocation Directors Manual. We are grateful to the team at ideaPort for maintaining the website and implementing important upgrades and design enhancements.

### Weekly posts | 4,000 followers

The **NRVC Facebook** provides fun facts about religious life and our members' feasts and other short news items.

### Monthly posts | 60% open rate (40% above industry standard!)

**Catalyst blog** provides monthly updates to our members, who are highly engaged.

### Monthly issue | 1,200 subscribers

The **Focus on Vocation Ministry** monthly newsletter is emailed to NRVC members, vicars for religious, collaborators, and diocesan offices of vocation to keep them abreast of NRVC news.

**24 resources** | The **NRVC online store** offers essential resources for purchase to promote vocations and assist vocation ministers and discerners.

### 77 *Abundant Hope* videos | *Religious Life Today* webinar series

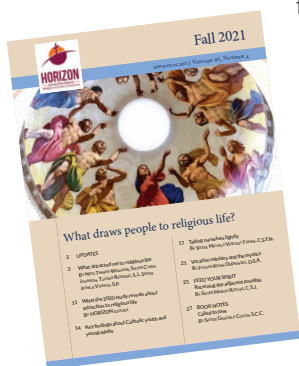
The NRVC **YouTube channel** posted the *Abundant Hope* playlist of videos from 61 religious institutes through support from SOAR! and the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation as well as two webinar videos from our *Religious Life Today* series made possible by the GHR Foundation.

### Quarterly journal | 1,300 subscribers

**HORIZON Quarterly Journal**, edited by Carol Schuck Scheiber, featured issues on the topics of: Focus on Hope; Race, culture, and new members; Communal and personal wellness; What draws people to religious life? The Catholic Media Association (formerly known as the Catholic Press Association) honored HORIZON with a third place award for best writing in-depth, "Walking with joyvenos who are discerning their vocation" by Sr. Ana Cecelia Montalvo, F.Sp.S.

### Annual Guide | 150,500 resources distributed 300,000 website visitors | 4,518 Vocation Match profiles

The 2022 issue of **VISION Annual Religious Vocation Discernment Guide** was published in August 2021 by TrueQuest Communications on behalf of NRVC. VISION guides, prayer cards, and parish posters were distributed throughout the U.S. and Canada, and globally via the digital edition. The Catholic Media Association awarded the VISION editors with honorable mentions for the Best Reporting on Vocations with "Our newest religious possess an age-old Christian virtue: hope" and for best magazine website.





# 2021 FINANCES

## Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets YEARS ENDED DEC. 31, 2021 & DEC. 31, 2020

	2021			2020		
	Without Donor- Restriction	With Donor- Restriction	Total	Without Donor- Restriction	With Donor- Restriction	Total
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUES</b>						
Membership	\$ 345,900	\$ -	\$345,900	\$ 337,919	\$ -	\$337,919
Workshops and programs	114,910	-	114,910	271,416	-	271,416
In-kind donations	4,342	-	4,342	11,990	-	11,990
Publications and resources	43,801	-	43,801	48,872	-	48,872
Investment return, net	239,177	-	239,177	193,754	-	193,754
Honoraria	16,700	-	16,700	5,410	-	5,410
Contributions	135,223	22,209	157,432	36,622	13,135	49,757
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	4,000	-	4,000
Total public support and revenues	900,053	22,209	922,262	909,983	13,135	923,118
Net assets released from restrictions	27,737	(27,737)	-	13,000	(13,000)	-
Total public support, revenues and transfers	927,790	(5,528)	922,262	922,983	135	923,118
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
Program services	326,272	-	326,272	403,371	-	403,371
Supporting services						
Management and general	197,862	-	197,862	156,154	-	156,154
Fundraising	68,101	-	68,101	40,664	-	40,664
Cost of goods sold	2,806	-	2,806	-	-	-
Total supporting services	268,769	-	268,769	196,818	-	196,818
Total expenses	595,041	-	595,041	600,189	-	600,189
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	332,749	(5,528)	327,221	322,794	135	322,929
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	1,546,066	50,489	1,596,555	1,223,272	50,354	1,273,626
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	\$1,878,815	\$44,961	\$1,923,776	\$1,546,066	\$50,489	\$1,596,555

### Letter from the Finance Director



INVESTMENTS under management with Christian Brothers Investment Services at 12/31/2021 were \$1,971,384, a significant increase over the 12/31/2020 balance of \$1,334,933. The NRVC moved funds from local savings to participate in a strong market, while maintaining sufficient cash flow for grant projects and operations. Cash held in local accounts at 12/31/2021 totaled \$349,829.

Generous grants from GHR Foundation and Conrad N. Hilton Foundation supported many special opportunities and projects the NRVC was able to accomplish in 2021, and continues to manage in 2022. Thanks to a grant from GHR Foundation, our Religious Life Storymap is available, and is constantly being added to; and the NRVC produced the first two of six webinars in the video series Learn It! Love It! Live It! These join our Abundant Hope videos online for everyone with a heart for vocation ministry to appreciate. Many spectacular leadership formation opportunities were realized with the Hilton grant, as well as Diversity, Equity and Inclusion evaluation for our National Board and leadership team. We are richly blessed by these organizations' faith in the NRVC to partner with them to achieve significant goals. Donations to the Misericordia Fund were very generous in 2021, and many members were able to participate in formation opportunities thanks to the goodness

of fellow NRVC members. When designated by donors for Misericordia scholarships, these funds are restricted.

Membership dues and income from workshops and programs continue to be the strongest source of revenue for the NRVC, providing 68% of 2021 operating revenue. Publications and resources contributed 6%, general contributions along with operating revenue from grants provided 23%, and in-kind donations, honoraria, and miscellaneous revenue combined provided 3%. Investment returns represent 26% of total public support, revenues, and transfers in 2021.

The 2021 and 2020 Financial Reviews were performed by Sikich LLP, certified public accountants and advisors. For both years, Sikich issued a conclusion that they are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the NRVC's financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Finally, the NRVC closed 2021 with total net assets of \$1,923,776, an increase of \$327,221 over 2020.

Respectfully,

Maureen Cetera  
Director of Finance and Operations



# CONTRIBUTORS



The 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, 2021 to Dec. 31, 2021.\*

## Annual Giving

Mr. Mark Alaimo  
Br. Paul Bednarczyk C.S.C.  
Benedictine Monks, Collegeville, MN, Saint John Abbey  
Benedictine Monks, Richardton, ND, Assumption Abbey  
Benedictine Monks, Schuyler, NE, Christ the King Priory  
Benedictine Sisters, Beech Grove, IN  
Benedictine Sisters, Yankton, SD  
Mr. David Bennett  
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters  
Brothers of the Christian Schools, Eastern North America  
Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Province of the United States  
Mrs. Maureen Cetera  
Mr. Dennis Cluver  
Congregation of Bon Secours  
Congregation of Christian Brothers  
Congregation of Divine Providence, San Antonio, TX  
Congregation of Notre Dame, Blessed Sacrament Province

Congregation of Sisters of Saint Agnes  
Congregation of the Humility of Mary  
Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament  
Mr. Kevin Conley  
Consolata Missionaries  
De LaSalle Christian Brothers, Midwest  
Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist  
Dominican Sisters, Mission San Jose, CA  
Dominican Sisters, Sinsinawa, WI  
Mrs. Barbara Dries  
Mr. Alfred Drumm  
Mr. Norman Dusseault  
Franciscan Brothers of Brooklyn  
Franciscan Friars of the Atonement  
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
Mr. Steven Freire  
Msgr. James Gunn  
Fr. Thomas Haren  
Mr. John Harrington  
Sr. Charlene Herinckx S.S.M.O. ideaPort  
Br. Robert Lavelle C.S.C.  
Little Company of Mary  
Fr. Adam MacDonald S.V.D.  
Ms. Mary Manning  
Ms. Violeta Mercado  
Midwest Member Area

Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity  
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Deacon Roger Mullaney  
Mr. Steven Neff  
New England Member Area  
Norbertines, St. Norbert Abbey  
Mr. Joseph Reilly  
Religious of Jesus and Mary  
Religious of the Assumption  
Mrs. Mary Ann Rickard  
Ms. Carol Schuck Scheiber  
Servants of the Holy Heart of Mary  
Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati  
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth  
Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill  
Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province  
Sisters of Saint Francis, Sylvania, OH  
Sisters of Saint Joseph of Carondelet, St. Paul, MN  
Sisters of Saint Joseph, Boston, MA  
Sisters of Saint Joseph, Brentwood, NY  
Sisters of Saint Joseph, Concordia, KS  
Sisters of Saint Mary of Oregon  
Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius  
Sisters of the Holy Cross

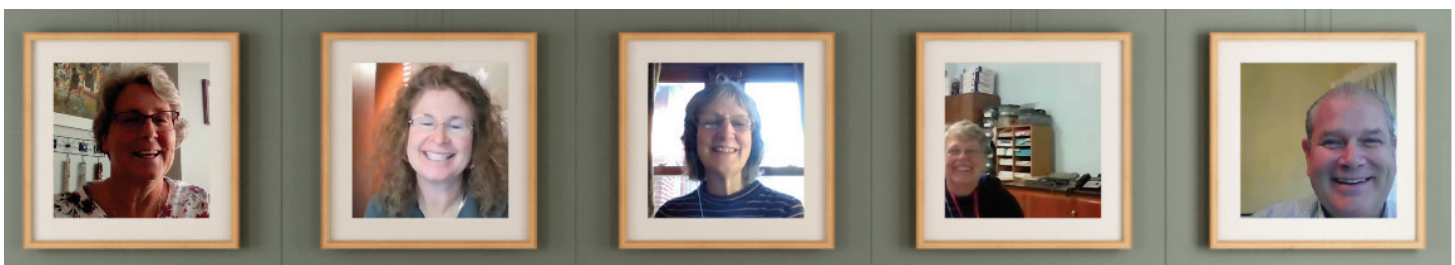
Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary  
Sisters of the Humility of Mary  
Sisters of the Precious Blood, Dayton, OH  
Sisters of the Presentation of Mary  
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, IA  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA  
Society of African Missions  
Society of Jesus, East Province  
Society of the Divine Word  
Society of the Holy Child Jesus  
Ms. Kathleen Streit  
Trappist Cistercian Monks, Peosta, IA, New Melleray Abbey  
TrueQuest Communications  
Mr. John Uhal  
Len and Sue Uhal  
Ursuline Sisters of Mount Saint Joseph  
Viatorians  
Vincentians, Western Province  
Visitation Sisters of Holy Mary  
Xaverian Missionaries

## Restricted Giving

Conrad N. Hilton Foundation  
GHR Foundation

*\*We regret any errors or omissions and appreciate receiving corrected information.*

NRVC Team Leaders at a weekly meeting, held virtually throughout 2021.





## The National Religious Vocation Conference

**VISION STATEMENT** The National Religious Vocation Conference has a vision to set the world ablaze with the fire of God's love through the prophetic, joyful witness of religious sisters, brothers, and priests as radical disciples of Jesus.

**MISSION STATEMENT** The National Religious Vocation Conference is a catalyst for vocation discernment and the full flourishing of religious life as sisters, brothers, and priests for the ongoing transformation of the world.

**PURPOSE** To accomplish its mission, the National Religious Vocation Conference, in collaboration with its members and strategic partners, provides professional development, advocacy, education, resources, and networking opportunities to support vocation ministry and religious life.

**VALUES** In presenting religious life as a viable, prophetic option that remains mystery and gift, the NRVC seeks to:

1. Provide professional development, best practices, and shared wisdom to animate the elements of vocation ministry: encounter, invitation, and accompaniment.
2. Foster a culture of vocations in a spirit of collaboration, joy, and hope to inspire and be inspired by the minds and hearts of the young church.
3. Celebrate the charism of each Catholic religious institute as part of the mission of Jesus.
4. Grow and nurture an intercultural approach to vocation ministry.

### STRATEGIC GOALS 2019-2023

- Enhance collaborative efforts for engaging the culturally diverse young church in discerning and impacting the future of religious life.
- Provide leading-edge resources, formation, and research to advance the field of intercultural vocation ministry, assessment skills, and discernment to religious life.
- Increase the visibility and awareness of the NRVC in order to fulfill our mission.
- Create the organizational structure and financial model needed to sustain and grow the NRVC.



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