

# Focus on Vocation Ministry

WHAT'S NEW IN NRVC



**NRVC**  
National Religious  
Vocation Conference



NRVC BOARD MEMBERS

JUNE 2010

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

BY BROTHER PAUL BEDNARCZYK, CSC

Dear NRVC Member,

As I write this column, I am preparing for the Notre Dame Symposium, which is scheduled for May 23-28. I will report on this gathering in the next edition of *Focus on Vocation Ministry*.

### LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETS

The NRVC Leadership Team met from May 2-5 in the residence of Archbishop Gregory Aymond, archbishop of New Orleans and NRVC episcopal liaison to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The archbishop and his staff could not have been more welcoming and gracious during our stay.

Archbishop Aymond met with the leadership team in the afternoon of May 3. We apprised him of NRVC's many activities and outreach to other organizations in our efforts to build a vocation culture. This included our follow-up to the NRVC/CARA report, the *Moving Forward in Hope Project* scheduled for September, and our involvement in the planning of the National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) and the University of Notre Dame Campus Ministry Symposium.

The archbishop was most encouraging and affirming of our work and expressed his gratitude

to NRVC on behalf of the bishops. Archbishop Aymond has been a friend of NRVC for several years and will preside at the Friday Eucharist of our NRVC Convocation in November. This year he will finish his term on the Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations, and NRVC will be assigned a new liaison by incoming committee chair Archbishop Robert Carlson.

### FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETS

The NRVC Finance Committee met at the Passionist Monastery in Chicago on April 29. Chaired by Father Anthony Vinson, OSB, the committee reviewed the first quarter financial report and the strategic planning proposals made by the NRVC board regarding future fiscal management and membership status. Although our investment income has been favorable, we still have not yet totally recovered from our losses in last year's drop in the market. NRVC membership continues to decrease, but at a smaller percentage from previous years. This is attributed to more aggressive recruitment and membership renewal follow-up.

Although NRVC is fortunate to supplement its income with various foundation grants, this funding is for specific projects and not operational expenses. A more thorough review of our financial

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### SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

Share your vocation efforts with others in this ministry. Send news and photos to the editor, Carol Schuck Scheiber, at [cscheiber@nrvc.net](mailto:cscheiber@nrvc.net).



**STEERING NRVC INTO THE FUTURE**—The NRVC board recently met at the residence of New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond to strategize and plan for the organization. Pictured here are (from left) board members Father Anthony Vinson, OSB; Sister Barb Kwiatkowski, OSF; Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ; Archbishop Gregory Aymond; Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC; and Sister Marcy Romine, OSF.



**SIGN ME UP**—Students with the Howard University Newman Club Center in Washington, DC sign in for a vocation rally day held March 27 at the university. Several priests, sisters, and brothers gave presentations during the full-day event. The day ended with a Palm Sunday procession and liturgy. Approximately 30 students took part in the event.

status will be given at the business meeting of the NRVC Convocation in November.

## REGISTER ONLINE FOR NRVC CONVOCATION THIS NOVEMBER

You may now register online for the 2010 NRVC Convocation at [www.nrvc.net](http://www.nrvc.net). Our theme is "Casting the Net, Vocation Ministry in a Global Church and World," and the date is November 4-8, 2010. Just click on the link next to the convocation logo and follow the prompts. Hotel registration links are also included in the convocation registration. For complete information on the convocation, simply download the convocation brochure from the NRVC website. If your fiscal year ends on June 30, and if you have extra money in your budget, you may want to consider registering early.

Don't forget we are offering three pre-convocation workshops on November 4 that are consistent with our NRVC curriculum:

**BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT II** with Rev. Raymond Carey, Ph.D.

**WHISPERS FROM GOD: A WORKSHOP FOR THOSE WHO TEACH AND PRACTICE DISCERNMENT** with Dr. Melanie-Prejean Sullivan, D.Min.

**VOCATION MINISTRY AND THE ISSUES, OF CIVIL, CANON, AND IMMIGRATION LAW** with Father Daniel Ward, OSB, and Annmarie Gibbons from CLINIC.

The convocation itself promises to be different from previous convocations in both setting and program. Keynote speakers Brother David Andrews, CSC; Sister Angela Zukowski, MSHS; Rev. Bryan Massingale; and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, U.S. papal nuncio, will treat the topic of globalization and vocation ministry from a communications, environmental, theological, and ecclesial perspective. You will not want to miss this special event, so reserve the dates and register now!

## NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED FOR NRVC AWARD

We are still accepting nominations for the NRVC Recognition Award, which is awarded biennially at the NRVC Convocation. This award was established to recognize the outstanding contributions made to vocation ministry and the church by our NRVC members. The nomination form for this award may be downloaded from the "Public Documents" section of the NRVC website. If you know a colleague who would be a commendable candidate for this distinction, I would highly encourage you to complete this form and send it to the NRVC office by June 15. You may also e-mail it to me at [bpaulbcsc@nrvc.net](mailto:bpaulbcsc@nrvc.net). The final selection of awardees will be made by the NRVC board.

## ANNUAL APPEAL TO MAJOR SUPERIORS

All major superiors of religious institutes will soon receive our annual NRVC letter of appeal. Financial contributions to the work and mission of NRVC are essential for the sustainability of our organization. Since the release of the NRVC/CARA report, Sister Charlene and I have spoken to several religious congregations who have expressed great appreciation for the services we provide. Please tell your major superior how you have benefited from your membership with NRVC and ask them to give generously.

All major superiors and NRVC members will receive in the mail copies of the 2009 Annual Report, which includes a review of our 2009 activities, committees, financial accounting, collaborating organization reports, and contributors. As you know, it has been an extraordinary year for NRVC. Let us continue to work together to ensure our future.

## SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR VOCATION DIRECTORS

There is still time to register for our summer institute workshops at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Take advantage of the opportunity to network with other vocation directors and to receive ongoing education in vocation ministry while enjoying the Chicago lakeshore and beautiful summer weather. Registration is available on the following links:

**BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT** with Father Raymond Carey, PhD, from July 12-14. Click here to register:  
<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=811062>

**ETHICS IN VOCATION MINISTRY** with Father Raymond Carey, Ph.D, from July 15-16. Click here to register:  
<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=811063>

**ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR NEW VOCATION DIRECTORS** with Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC and Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, from July 19-23. Click here to register:  
<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=811064>

**"We'll share our experience with blogs, podcasts, Facebook, Twitter, equipment, software, consultants and collaborators . . ."**

VOCATION DIRECTOR AS SPIRITUAL GUIDE with Father David Couturier, OFM Cap, from July 26-28. Register now at:

<http://www.regonline.com/Checkin.asp?EventId=816669>

The Church traditionally dedicates this month to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We hold close in prayer all of those religious institutes whose charism is rooted in the Sacred Heart. May these June days be especially blessed for them.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC  
Executive Director



**CONNECTING WITH MINISTRY-MINDED PEERS**—The chance to meet other young adults considering a life of service is one of the appeals of the Catholics on Call event to take place in Chicago this August. Participants of a former program enjoy Chicago sights.

## Discerners invited to Catholics on Call free event

YOUNG ADULTS considering a life of service are encouraged to apply to attend the August 1-6 Catholics on Call conference for ages 18-30. Participants have the opportunity to connect and pray with other like-minded young adults, hear nationally known speakers discuss how to listen to God's call, and learn skills for discerning their own vocation, be it lay, vowed, or ordained. To learn more and to download the application, click on Young Adult Conferences on the left side of [www.catholicsoncall.org](http://www.catholicsoncall.org), write to [catholicsoncall@ctu.edu](mailto:catholicsoncall@ctu.edu), or call (773) 371-5431. ■

## Get free social media tips

LEARN MORE about using social media in your ministry by signing up for a free podcast being developed by A Nun's Life Ministry. The ministry—an interactive, vocation-oriented site at [www.anunslife.org](http://www.anunslife.org)—has fielded so many questions from Catholic ministers about its use of Internet technology that its leaders decided to share techniques via podcast (an audio or video clip that can be accessed from the website).

"We'll share our experience with blogs, podcasts, Facebook, Twitter, equipment, software, consultants and collaborators, books and resources, and interaction with people online," wrote Sister Julie Vieira, IHM on a May 6 blog announcing the new effort. "We'll also interview folks across the social media landscape who can provide expertise, insight, and concrete help on a variety of related topics."

Sign up to receive e-mails about this podcast by leaving a comment with your first name, e-mail (never made public), and the words "SIGN ME UP" on Sister Julie's blog at:

<http://anunslife.org/2010/05/06/new-social-ministry-podcast-coming-soon/> ■

## Young Adult Ministry Tip of the Month

### TARGET "YOUNG ADULT" SUB-GROUPS

According to *Sons and Daughters of the Light*, the U.S. bishops' 1996 pastoral plan for young adult ministry, the term "young adult" applies to men and women 18 to 39, who are both single and married, with and without children. The size of this demographic can be quite overwhelming for church leaders—but young adults are all united by the fact that they are going through incredible life transitions and developing into an adult appreciation of the world and their faith.

To make things easier, try developing outreaches for smaller, more specific groups within this broad demographic: college students, singles up to age 29, single 30-somethings, etc. They all fit under the umbrella of "young adults," but providing a unique approach to each group might make your vocation ministry efforts less frustrating and yield greater participation numbers.

—Paul Jarzembowski, National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association, [pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org](mailto:pjarzembowski@dioceseofjoliet.org)



**VOCATIONS ON THE MOVE**—A pair of racers at Race for Vocations in Indianapolis stop for a smile (bottom left), and Ohio Catholics make a pilgrimage to celebrate vocations (bottom right). Supporting the Race for Vocations (top) were Sister Joan Miller, vocation director for the Oldenburg Franciscans; Sister Jennifer Horner, vocation director for the Beech Grove Benedictines and a racer; Sister Jenny Howard, vocation director for Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods; Sister Theresa Sullivan, vocation director for the Daughters of Charity; and general officer Sister Marsha Speth, liaison to the New Membership Team for the Sisters of Providence.

## Walk, race events held

ON MAY 8 SOME 50 PILGRIMS in Ohio made an eight-mile, vocation-focused journey to several Catholic sites, while on the same day in Indianapolis, IN, 178 people took part in a Race for Vocations that was part of the much larger One America 500 Festival Mini-Marathon and 5K race. The Ohio pilgrimage, now in its third year, is called "Stepping Up the Call: A Pilgrimage for Vocations." It is held in rural western Ohio. Walkers stopped at several churches, the Maria Stein relic shrine, and the headquarters of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. In Indiana racers included married couples, families, singles, clergy, and religious. They wore T-shirts declaring "Vocation . . . everyone has one. What's yours?" Racers and their supporters prayed for vocations during training and the event itself, and the night before the race, they took part in a special Mass and dinner. Young adults of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis sponsored the Race for Vocations. Details are at <http://www.archindy.org/criterion/local/2010/05-14/race.html>. ■

## Job opening, Fremont, CA

THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY of Fremont, CA are seeking a full-time vocation director responsible for coordinating their vocation plan. The candidate needs to be a practicing Catholic, knowledgeable of Catholic teaching, and have a background or experience in human development and religious life. The applicant needs relational and marketing skills, especially with adults 40-50 years of age and the ability to "think outside the box." The candidate must have excellent oral and written communication and marketing skills and be willing to inspire teamwork and implement new thinking. Experience in church ministry is preferred. Salary and benefits are competitive.

For more information about the Sisters of the Holy Family see:

Facebook FanPage:

[www.facebook.com/pages/Fremont-CA/Sisters-of-the-Holy-Family/19423411523](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fremont-CA/Sisters-of-the-Holy-Family/19423411523)

Blog:

<http://blog.holyfamilysisters.org/>

Applicants should send a letter of interest, resumé, and photo by September 1 to: Sister Carolyn Whited, 245 Magnolia Ave., #96, Manteca, CA 95337 or [carolyn@holyfamilysisters.org](mailto:carolyn@holyfamilysisters.org). ■



**FOSTERING COLLABORATION IN SEATTLE**—The Seattle Archdiocese Vocation Ministry team met recently for mutual support and planning. Pictured here are (standing, from left): Jo-Anne Miller, CSJP; Phil Philbrick (Serra Club); Gretta Woodlock, OP; Monika Ellis, OSB; Cathy Beckley, SNJM; and Francine Barber, OP. In front are Patty Novak, OSF and Bea LaFramboise, SP.

## Check out these links

HORIZON advertisers offer goods and services tailored for vocation ministers. Click on these links to see what they offer for your ministry.

**Catholics on Call.** Young adults seeking insight about where God is calling them can register now for a FREE summer conference. [www.catholicsoncall.org](http://www.catholicsoncall.org)

**Weber Center Summer Programs.** Enrich yourself in a restful Michigan setting. Check out summer courses and retreats at [www.webercenter.org](http://www.webercenter.org)

**New book: Vocations and Their Formation Today.** Friar Guy Lespinay, OP looks at ways to encourage a positive journey for those entering religious formation today. [www.stpauls.us/VOCATIONS-AND-THEIR-FORMATION-TODAY-P10789C0.aspx](http://www.stpauls.us/VOCATIONS-AND-THEIR-FORMATION-TODAY-P10789C0.aspx)

**Loyola University Institute of Pastoral Studies.** Expand your ministry with an MA in pastoral studies, now available online. <http://luc.edu/grad/horizon/>

**Redemptorist Renewal Center.** Find calm in the desert: retreats, spiritual-direction study, writing hermitages near Picture Rocks in Arizona. [www.desertrenewal.org](http://www.desertrenewal.org)

**Our Lady of the Snows** is the perfect place for your next retreat, special event, or getaway, minutes from downtown St. Louis. [www.snows.org](http://www.snows.org)



**HOOPS FOR A CAUSE—**Sister Pat Dowling, CBS sits with two priest friends during the Men in Black basketball event held April 30 in Westminster, MD. Communities were able to exhibit, and religious and priests introduced themselves before the game, which pits priests against seminarians.

**Institute of Religious Formation.** Challenging participants to a spirituality that adapts to the needs of our complex global village. See [http://www.ctu.edu/Courses\\_and\\_Programs/Continuing\\_Education](http://www.ctu.edu/Courses_and_Programs/Continuing_Education) and click on "Institute of Religious Formation" in the column at left.

**Lighthouse Catholic Media.** Young adults love our Catholic speakers, such as Mother Teresa, Matthew Kelly, and many more; CDs and MP3s starting at \$3. <http://cursillo-lighthousemedia.org/>

**Prepare the Word** is the perfect preaching and formation resource for busy religious. [www.PrepareTheWord.com](http://www.PrepareTheWord.com) ■

## NRVC dates to remember

### BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT I

July 12-14, 2010, Father Ray Carey, Chicago, IL

### ETHICS IN VOCATION AND FORMATION MINISTRY

July 15-16, 2010, Father Ray Carey, Chicago, IL

### ORIENTATION FOR NEW VOCATION DIRECTORS

July 19-23, 2010, Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC and Sister Charlene Diorka, SSJ, Chicago, IL

### VOCATION MINISTER AS SPIRITUAL GUIDE

July 26-27, 2010, Father David Couturier, OFM Cap., Chicago, IL

### BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT II

November 4, 2010, Father Ray Carey, Ph.D., Cleveland, OH

### VOCATION MINISTRY AND ISSUES OF CIVIL, CANON AND IMMIGRATION LAW

November 4, 2010, Father Daniel Ward, OSB and Annemarie Gibbons of Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc., Cleveland, OH

### THEOLOGY OF DISCERNMENT

November 4, 2010, Melanie-Prejean Sullivan, D.Min., Cleveland, OH

### NRVC CONVOCATION 2010

November 4-8, 2010, Cleveland, OH

# UPDATE FROM NATIONAL COALITION FOR CHURCH VOCATIONS

BY SISTER DIANE POPLAWSKI, OP, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NCCV

## DISCERNMENT GUIDE AVAILABLE

**WHISPERS, NUDGES, & A COUPLE OF KICKS ~ A GUIDE FOR THOSE WHO TEACH AND PRACTICE DISCERNMENT.** This 121-page book was authored by Melanie-Prejean Sullivan, director of campus ministry at Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY. Melanie was a workshop presenter at the 2008 NRVC Convocation. Order # 303, \$23. See details at [www.nccv-vocations.org](http://www.nccv-vocations.org).

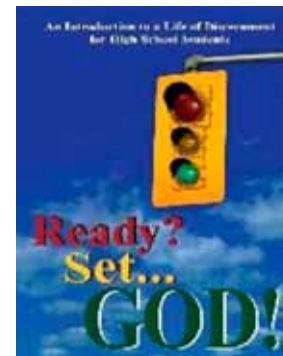
## JUNE & JULY SALES!

**VOCATION POCKET NOTES.** These business-card size discernment pocket notes come in a packet of 21 cards. The front has artwork, a vocation attribute, and a quote. The back of the card contains reflective questions and a prayer, and the cards tuck into a carrier. These are an inspirational gift for vocation ministers or anyone in discernment. Order #603 \$4 (regularly \$4.95). Dedicated in memory of Sister Peter Mary Hettling, CSJ.



**FOCUS 11: VOCATION EDUCATION (GRADES 6 AND 11).** This is a popular and effective vocation program. Sample documents from the Diocese of St. Petersburg Vocation Office are included, along with everything you need! Files include: table of contents, introduction, sixth grade, 11th grade, director of religious education and youth minister, exhibitors, and general information. This great vocation education program can help with local efforts to encourage vocations. Permission to duplicate and modify is granted to the original purchaser only. CD, 74 pages, Word format. Order #830, Sale price \$20 (regularly \$25).

**READY? SET . . . GOD!** This unique program was designed to help students identify their gifts and interests. Students learn prayerful discernment and decision-making skills that help clarify vocation choices. The creative and innovative program uses a variety of activities to engage students. The step-by-step directions are adaptable. The program was developed by vocation directors and successfully used with high school teachers and students. The original purchaser is the only one with permission to duplicate. Order #2138, sale price of \$15 (regularly \$20).



**CALLED BY NAME, OPERATION MIRYAM & JOSEPH.** These are both popular vocation awareness programs. Order #2104 CBN, #2102 MJ \$5 each (regularly \$7).

**CATHOLIC UPDATE – CREATING A CULTURE OF VOCATION.** This handout discusses the possibility of creating a family atmosphere and vocation culture that encourages youth to consider church vocations, whether as a priest, sister, brother, or deacon. It is practical, user-friendly, and helpful for anyone interested in helping to build a culture of vocations. Order #424 \$.35 each (regularly \$.40).

## VISIT NCCV

If you are on the campus of Catholic Theological Union or in the neighborhood sometime this summer, please stop by and see us! Sometimes it is helpful to see firsthand the many resources available to assist you in your ministry.

Contact NCCV at [nccvocations@gmail.com](mailto:nccvocations@gmail.com), (773) 955-5453 or [www.nccv-vocations.org](http://www.nccv-vocations.org). ■

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