

## NCVR Western Regional Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2024

Dominican Center; Fremont, CA (Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose)



Present: Sr. Kathy Warren, O.S.F. (Chair) (San Diego), Sr. Ellen Hess, V.D.M.F. (Treasurer) (San Jose), Joan Patten, A.O. (Secretary) (Orange), Sr. Wanda Billion, M.S.C. (Stockton), Sr. Jaise Thomas, I.M. (Monterey), Sr. Ginger Downey, O.L.V.M. (Phoenix), Sr. Diane Aruda, O.P. (San Francisco), Sr. Tracey Sharp, S.C.R.H. (Los Angeles), Sr. Maria Carols, E.I.N. (Los Angeles), Fr. Lane Akiona, ss.cc. (Honolulu).

Three enrichment sessions were offered:

- 1) A video from the August 2024 LCWR Assembly addressing the question: Who Do We Need You (Religious) to Be for the World? Three lay women spoke to the Question, Sandra Coles-Bell, Katie Gordon, Kerry Robinson. The video is available on the LCWR website.
- 2) Sister Marie Kolbe Zamora, OSF, from the Vatican Synod Office, presented an update on the Global Synod 2021-24. See attached power point.
- 3) Sister Ginger Downey, O.L.V.M., offered a presentation on the National Religious Archives Project. See attached document.

Zoom Participants: Sr. Mary Frances Coleman, R.S.M. (San Bernardino), Sr. Sharon Casey, O.P. (Seattle).

The previous minutes from March 2024 were approved by all.

Sr. Kathy asked Joan for an update about the Jubilee celebration for consecrated life in Rome this Oct. The letter from the Dicastery will be attached to these minutes.

**Review of financial situation:** Sr. Kathy is still waiting on payments for the Sept. regional assembly from various dioceses. Finances for the NCVR Western Region will be kept at the **NCVR's National Office**. All future checks to be sent to Sr. Patricia Wormann, O.P. in Newark.

**Discussion about future meetings:** We will raise the price to \$200 for regional gatherings. Sr. Ellen suggested we make cushion into regional assembly fee to cover hospitality needs. The Dominican Center in Fremont is central and seems to draw the most participants but requires higher funds. Sr. Sharon Casey, O.P. (Seattle) and Sr. Mary Frances Coleman, R.S.M. (San Bernardino) participated virtually for the 2024 regional meeting, but it is hopeful that in-person attendance is increasing.

**Regional Officers:** Joan concluded her term as regional secretary. Sr. Diane Aruda, OP, volunteered to be the next regional secretary and all approved. Her term is from Sept. 2024-Sept. 2027. Sr. Kathy and Sr. Ellen were elected last year in 2023 and will conclude their terms in 2026.

Discussion if we should have a vice-chair. It was concluded that we will not fill this position, but the secretary and treasurer will assume the chair's responsibility and work together to fill the position from the members should the chair's position end in between terms.

**National Assembly:** The National Assembly in 2025 will once again be held at the Pallottine Retreat Center in St. Louis, March 17-19, 2025. There is an option to come the night before. The theme is "Today's Pilgrims of Hope, Futuring in Consecrated Life." Possible speakers include: Sr. Anne Munley, I.H.M., Sr. Teresa Maya, C.C.V.I., and Sr. Maria Cimperman, R.S.C.J.

**ACTION ITEM:** Several western region vicars requested that Sr. Kathy communicate to the National Board that they consider an alternative location (Western Region) for the National Assembly. The suggestion is

that we meet somewhere else besides the central part of the country or go to a city with a larger airport hub to accommodate those on the west coast.

**Update from the National Office:** NCVR will, as always, participate the USCCB Consecrated Life Committee meeting in October, 2024.

The Diocese of Brooklyn started the survey of their religious funded by the Hilton grant. Four other nearby east coast dioceses are waiting to participate. This will serve as a “pilot” for other NCVR dioceses. Hilton prefers to work with dioceses in cluster. After the first “cluster” begins, plans for other areas will be considered.

NCVR was selected by the NRVC’s award on Nov. 3, 2024, in Minneapolis.

Sr. Maryann Seton Lopiccolo, President of NCVR met with Sr. Carol Zinn from LCWR about the diminishing numbers of vicars in NCVR.

**For the 2023-24 year:**

Eastern region has 17 vicars

Southern region has 13 vicars (4 new)

Midwest region has 13 vicars (4 new)

Western region has 13 vicars (4 new)

Total: 44 in USA, 12 new members. NCVR is constantly (National and Regional levels) reaching out to dioceses to invite participation in the National Conference.

NCVR National Board will offer webinars: Oct. 15 or 16 at 4:00 PM on OCD Kennedy Directory presentation. Details will be emailed soon.

**2025 NCVR Western Regional Assembly:** Sr. Tracey offered to talk about the canonical status of private and public associations of the faithful. She also noted that some materials in the NCVR manual are dated and in need of replacing. There were requests to have speakers for our 2025 Regional Assembly offer presentations on spiritual and psychological abuse in religious life as well as an explanation of *Cor Orans* and the care of a bishop for a monastery. Suggested speakers include: Sr. Nancy Reynolds, S.P. who works with monastic commissaries, Sr. Lynn Jerrell, O.S.U. or Abbot Eugene Walsh, O. PRAEM a canon lawyer in Orange. Sr. Ginger Downey will follow up on this and contact speakers.

Special thanks to Sr. Ginger for preparing and leading our Prayers, for Fr. Lane for presiding at our Eucharist, Sr. Diane for the beautiful arrangements, and the San Jose OPs for their generous contribution to our meeting (reduced pricing).

We will talk further in March 2025 at the national assembly.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Patten

**Attachments:**

Letter from Dicastery on Jubilee Year

What to put in Archive from Sr. Ginger

Power Point on Synod 2024 (October Session) from Sr. Maria Kolbe Zamora, OSF

Updated Contact List