

Vicars for Religious Regional Meeting

October 11-13, 2022

Pro Sanctity Retreat Center, Fullerton, CA

The Joy of Being Together

Members Present on site: Sr. Kathy Warren, OSF, Sr. Rene Backe, CSA, Joan Patten, AO, Sr. Mary Frances Coleman, RSM, Sr. Ellen Hess, VDMF, Sr. Maria Carlos-Valdez, EIN,
Members present Via ZOOM: Sharon Casey, OP, Sr. Lisa Marie Doty, FdCC, Sr. Wanda Billion, MSC, Sr. Anthony Mary Diago, RSM.

Tuesday, October 12, 2022

We opened with a prayer and meditation led by Sr. Rene at 3:00 PM.

New member, Sr. Lisa was warmly greeted by all and welcome back to Sr. Anthony Mary.

At 4:15 PM, Miguel Naranjo, the director of Religious Services from CLINIC, presented about the programs that are offered regarding immigration. He distinguished the main components between R1 Religious Worker visas and Religious Workers applying for Permanent Residence. His PowerPoint will be made available after this meeting.

We concluded with a Social Hour followed by dinner.

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

We began the day with Mass and Morning Prayer in the chapel at the Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center, followed by breakfast.

At 10:00 AM, Sr. Sharon Euart gave a presentation via Zoom on canonical procedures and she answered questions previously submitted by various members. In addition, Sr. Sharon highlighted new canonical procedures that were issued in early 2022 regarding excommunication, dismissal, and cloistered monasteries. She encouraged everyone to check the Toolbox for ongoing resources from the National Religious Vocation Conference. She also mentioned that

there are scholarships available for their annual conference. A summary of her responses will be made available after this meeting.

We paused for lunch and a break.

The business meeting was called to order by Sr. Kathy at 1:30 PM.

The first item on the agenda was the sharing of best practices and challenges faced during the past year. Highlighted among them were:

- Working with health issues and acclimating to a new bishop
- Expansion of personnel in Consecrated Life Office
- Need to establish guidelines for religious communities coming into the diocese (Everyone is invited to share what guidelines are used in perspective diocese)
- Positive experience of visiting the border with religious communities
- Establishing new discernment program using a model from the Diocese of Tulsa (Religious Life 101)

The minutes from the last meeting together in March 2022 were reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's Report: \$2,207.23 is the current balance. Membership dues are \$50 and can be sent to the Diocese of San Bernardino in care of Sr. Mary Frances.

Election of officers: Chair & Treasurer: Sr. Kathy Warren accepted the unanimous election for a second term as Chair. Sr. Ellen Hess accepted the unanimous election for the role of Treasurer. The National Board is working to assist with running the bank account from their office and not one of our local diocese.

Current Officers for NCVR Western Region

Chair: Sr. Kathy Warren (2020-2022, 2022-2024)

Vice Chair: Sr. Rene Backe (2021-2023)

Secretary: Joan Patten (2021-2023)

Treasurer: Sr. Ellen Hess (2022-2024)

Update from NCVR National Board:

The National Conference, *Along the Paschal Journey*, is scheduled for March 13-16, 2023 in Cincinnati, OH. Presenters include: Sr. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ, Sr. Sharon Euart, Sr. Mary Joan Nelson, and Sr. Stephanie Still.

Sr. Maryanne, from the National Board, was recently honored by SOAR!

The National Board synthesized the recent synodal reports and are sponsoring a few webinars.

- Sr. Maria will present about her recent experience of a diocesan survey funded by the Hilton Foundation, at the upcoming National NCVR workshop on Oct. 19th. The time is to be announced soon.
- Other webinars will feature Sr. Mariette, as a new canon lawyer, Madeline Obler regarding the Official Catholic Directory, and Miguel Naranjo from CLINIC. Times and dates will be announced.

The business meeting concluded with the joint decision to hold the next regional gathering on Sept. 19-21, 2023 at the Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center in Fullerton, CA.

At 4:00 PM, Dr. Judith Stegman, the President of the Association for Consecrated Virgins presented via Zoom, about the vocation and identity of consecrated virgins living in the world. She outlined steps for discernment for candidates as well as the proper formation and preparation given from the Code of Canon Law and *Ecclesiae sponsae imago*.

We said goodbye to some of the attendees and a small party went to Seal Beach for the evening for dinner and a stroll on the pier.

Thursday, October 13, 2022

We went to Mass together at the Pro Sanctity Spirituality Center chapel followed by a brief breakfast before all departed.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Patten, AO
Regional secretary