

NCVR Eastern Region October 20, 2021

Virtual Conference of the Eastern Region of Vicars for Religious

Present were: Sr. Ann David Strohminger, OSF, Chairperson; Sr. Maryann Lopiccolo, SC, Sr. Anna Hang-Nga Nguyen, SCC; Sr. Mariette Moan, ASCJ; Sr. Elizabeth Castro, HMSP; Sr. Gilmory Kay, RSM; Sr. Jean Thompson, OSF; Sr. Jean Daniel Healy, SCC; Sr. Germana Santos, FSP; Sr. Patricia Wormann, O.P.; CSJ; Sr. Sr. Joan Curtin, CND; Sr. Mindy Welding, IHM; Sr. Kathy Kurdziel, IHM; Sr. Paulina Hurtado, OP.

Excused were: Sr. Patricia Moran, CIJ and Sr. Gabrielle Braccio, RSM.

The meeting started at 9:15 a.m. with a prayer led by Sr. Kathy Kurdziel: “Moments of Grace and Glimpses of God’s Face...”

Sr. Ann David Strohminger greeted all the participants, introduced all members and invited them to an awareness the moment: ‘How am I?’ followed by a sharing on our respective Dioceses in general, as well as on the preparations and participation regarding the Synod 2021-23. Various members were directly involved in their respective dioceses in the process of the Synod. Sr. Ann also presented the schedule for the day.

After a 15-minute break at 10:45 a.m., Sr. Maryann Lopiccolo, SC, announced and explained the election process for officers to be held and she introduced each of the Nominees. This was followed by secret voting.

Discussion followed on the next point on the agenda regarding questions from Institutes and how were vicars responding to them in their Diocese. These questions touched on the reduced numbers in membership in the Institutes due to age, no new members coming in, leadership or health limitations. Various ways to facilitate needed steps in view of those realities were also expanded upon, such as request for a commissary, suppression, merger, covenanting with other Institutes, or more elaborate helpful processes such as the online conversations sponsored by the LCWR on the Emerging Futures. Whether there were bishops involved or knowledgeable of the above circumstances in their Diocese.

The group broke at noon for an hour lunch and resumed for the presenter of the day: Sr. Ann Lecour, MSC, who shared a “Lived Experience in Covenant Relationship”. This generated much understanding of personal and group concerns from the communities involved and therefore, for much sensitivity in the processes which ensued.

After a short break, at 3:15, Sr. Ann Strohminger updated the group on the outcome of the Election Process subsequent to the secret voting.

Officers

Chair: Sr. Ann Strohminger, OSF, to complete a remaining one-year term of service.

Vice-Chair: Sr. Jean Thompson, OSF
Secretary: Sr. Anna Hang-Nga Nguyen, SCC
Treasurer: Sr. Patricia Wormann, O.P.

The new officers were then recognized and welcome. This was followed by the Treasurer's report.

The last item on the agenda dealt with how to move forward in the Eastern Region in terms of future meetings, given the experiences of the last two years which brought about new ways for gathering, in person or virtual and how to maintain communication and support, exchanges and shared resources. It was encouraged that vicars reach out to each other in the Region to attend conferences or webinars.

The meeting closed at 4:15 p.m., with a final prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sr. Paulina Hurtado, O.P.