

Midwest Region Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2023

Summary

Information about the Hilton Grant had been sent in the summer and by the end of October the following responses were given.

Hilton Interest from the Midwest Region

Reported

Archdiocese of Cincinnati Maria Reinagel

Diocese of Covington Sr. Marla Monahan

Diocese of Toledo Sr. Anthony Mary Diago

Diocese of Green Bay WI Sr. Leonette Kochan

Not at this time:

Diocese of Lansing, MI Dawn Hausmann

Add on

Diocese of Cleveland Sr. Ingberta Tarimo, CDNK

I spoke with Mary Bromer from Chicago and she said she already has that grant in place. She newly replaced Joan McGlinchey. I wasn't sure we were talking about the same thing but she was.

We did not cover the topic in our meeting after all as there was clarity on it.

Due to technical difficulties, we had a late start. We dedicated the time to get to know one another. In the spring meeting, we will discuss our fall meeting. As we are so geographically spread out, it's not likely we will gather in person.

10 am Gather and Get to know (Please bring 2 areas you are focusing on this year and 1 area in which you would like help)

**Sr. Ingberta Tarimo
Diocese of Cleveland**

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- Sr. Mary Alice has been working in the office transitionally since January. She's also doing her studies and once she finishes her work at the diocese, she will go back to medical school. Both are from Tanzania, Our Lady of Kilimanjaro Congregation, and their feast is December 8th.
- Sr. Ingberta just came in August and Sr. Mary Alice is helping her to learn the ropes.
- Gap between them and the previous delegate. Vicar for clergy was overseeing both offices and it was too much.
- Focus has been visiting the men and women religious, getting to know their needs. 3 meetings- February, May and September. Each community presents their concerns and needs. There's been mutual support.
- Reintroducing the formation for CV. They do have some CV but there's been a gap since the last one in 2007. They have 4 women discerning.
- Not many young women discerning in general.
- They have 3 cloister communities and want new vocations. How to help them advertise their communities? **Advice:** Host a discernment morning at the monastery. The abbess would have to agree to have the women join them for Mass and a talk over breakfast with a Q and A with the sisters. Questions about religious life, the vows, etc. Invite a diocesan priest to celebrate the Mass and give a 30 minute talk about how to discern a vocation – tips as a second talk. They had an hour of adoration, confession during adoration and benediction to conclude. Help the cloisters to share their story. Narrate what they write and present it with images.
- How to support the CV discerners? A mentor can be a great support to a woman discerning consecrated virginity. YouTube videos about the vocation by Dawn Hausmann. For example, [What is Consecrated Virginity?](#)

Diocese of Green Bay, WI
Sister Leonette Kochan, OSF
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- Has worked in catholic schools and social justice in Tucson. Started in 2019 for the Diocese of Green Bay part time in addition to her full-time job.

- She sent a survey to the sisters asking what would be helpful. The highest interest was in spiritual enrichment. They had a gathering of the congregations of sisters, around 300. She spoke well of Fr. John Burns from the Diocese of Milwaukee to speak- he is a strong advocate for women religious vocations.
- Annual gatherings – memorial Mass for the sisters who have died in the past year, November. Read the names of the deceased. 100 names in the last two years.
- Jubilees of the sisters – September with the Bishop, Mass and luncheon.
- Women recruitment- sometimes on the back burner at the diocesan level. There's such a need for our witness! It's not the work but the witness that's needed!
- Congregational leaders will meet with the bishop in January- first ever.
- Four congregations of active ministry- need to determine where each one is in terms of their continuation. One cloistered congregation. One may be moving toward completion, needs to be treated delicately.
- They have an active internet presence to help discerners.

Diocese of Lansing, MI

Dawn Hausmann

Vocations & Discipleship Departments

**Director of Consecrated Vocations, Delegate for Consecrated Life,
& Coordinator of Young Adult Ministry**

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Wonder, Discernment, Tenacity, Enablement

- Been a delegate for the last 4 years. Wears many hats- delegate role is limited.
- Young adult ministry, discerning for consecrated life, this year theme is Miriam dinners but also hosting a retreat for CV.
- Monthly zoom sessions for discerners of Consecrated Virginity, age 20 – 30's.
- They had a Jubilarian gathering and celebration of consecrated life all in one. Mass and lunch. Sr Helena Burns spoke to them during the lunch about presence on the internet. All of the Michigan bishops meet with the superiors once a year hosted by different dioceses. We talked a little about this dynamic.
- She raised the question: What is preventing women from discerning consecrated life??

Diocese of Toledo, OH

Sr. Anthony Mary Diago, RSM

Delegate for Consecrated Life &

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- She was in Phoenix full time and now does this 1/3 of time. Missions appeals and awareness.
- Has 330 religious- men and women. 10 communities and 6 men communities, 4 motherhouses, SND, Franciscan Sylvania Tiffin, etc. Aging- and dying. Very beautiful community-diverse charisms. Visitation Monastery of contemplative sisters.
- Adjusting to a new bishop and his way of relating to the religious. He meets with the superiors twice a year - updates from the different departments in the diocese. 10 am to 1:30 pm with lunch included. His update may last an hour.
- Advent Day of Reflection on “How to live the beatitudes every day” and Therese’s devotion to the Eucharist. Day of prayer together.
- Been visiting the sisters.
- Monthly newsletter via Flock note.
- Attends funerals when she can.
- In Arizona, she had community support. No discernment talks- no one on one- no point person for vocational work in their diocese. Focus- grow in relation with the sisters and make the most of the Day of Reflection to show her support.

Nicole Bettini, Consecrated Virgin | Delegate for Consecrated Life

Office of Delegate for Consecrated Life

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- Part time 15- 18 hours. Works full time at a parish. She is a Consecrated Virgin (CV).
- Worked in the diocese since 2001.
- Invited to help in creating a formation plan for CV- in 2012.
- Also, a liaison for women discerners. Got to know many of the religious sisters. Archbishop Hebda commented that this is the first time they’ve had a CV in that role.
- She wants to go out to meet the religious-know important feast days for them and how to support them. Started to schedule visits. 14 Jesuit novices visited them in the fall.
- 26 women’s communities. 8 of men. Plus, secular institutes. How to hold up the variety of expressions of consecrated life. Highlight the different forms of Consecrated life to tell the story.
- Since March, 6 new CV- can feel disconnected from the diocese. Some sort of ongoing formation. 16 CV in the region. Setting up procedures for psychological assessments for the CV discerners.

Archdiocese of Chicago

Sr. Mary Beth Bromer, CSSF
Vicar for Religious

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- She is learning. She started September 2nd. She was the director of faith formation on the south side of Chicago. He wouldn't let her say no... she felt the call to say yes to this position. So new... her cardinal and bishop have been phenomenal!
- Walking in the footsteps of Sr. Joan McGlinchey.
- Vocation ministry is near and dear to her heart. She supports men and women in Consecrated life. She has a heart for the brothers.
- She's just learning about the consecrated virgins- she wants to start a partnership with them.
- Just sent a census to the congregations last week- update a database.
- Internet presence needs updating.
- February meeting with the Archbishop with superiors on the calendar.
- Jubilee is so important.
- Our religious are powerhouses of prayer. Do we make them connected to the needs of the diocese and the Church?
- She needs to be with people!
- She said that Chicago has the Hilton grant already.

Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Maria Reinagel (Consecrated Woman of Regnum Christi)
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- Works part time.
- Has close to 50 congregations with a presence in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati
- The annual Jubilee Celebration at the end of October with a Mass and Luncheon with the Archbishop
- Works to promote the Retirement Fund for Religious. Last year created a video to further support.
- In addition to supporting those in Consecrated Life, she works to promote a culture of vocations in collaboration with a group of Vocation Ministers.

Unable to join the meeting

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Diocese of Youngstown, OH
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Sr. Joyce Candidi- she will be stepping down in December. She was elected to leadership and will be moving to Rome.

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11:45 Q & A (15 minutes)