

**NCVR Board Meeting
May 15-17, 2015
Chicago Illinois**

Present: Sisters Nancy Mathias, OSU, Joyce Candidi, OSHJ, Ellen Dunn, OP, Eymard Flood, OSC, Mary McGarrity, IHM, Mariette Moan, ASCJ, and Brother James McVeigh, OSF.

Excused: Sister Marlene Weidenborner, OSF.

Following the *Midday Prayer*, the Board reviewed the agenda and suggested a few additional topics for discussion. The Board reviewed the minutes from the November 2014 National Board meeting and approved these after making some corrections. The Board then reviewed the minutes from the March 2015 Business meeting and approved these after making some corrections.

Reports:

President – Nancy Mathias, OSU – Sister Nancy read an e-mail message from Sister Marlene regarding her recent eye surgery. She also noted the Fr. Shawn McKnight, S.T.D., Executive Director Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations will be leaving his position with the USCCB. She will inform the Board of the name of the new Executive Director.

Vice-President – Brother James McVeigh, OSF – Reported nothing new since the March meeting.

Secretary – Joyce Candidi, OSHJ – Sister Joyce reported that she:

- Compiled the minutes of the NCVR National Assembly Business meeting,
- Continued to update the National Directory electronic file document,
- Prepared an updated Membership Letter and Form,
- Compiled *Proceedings* and mailed all members a hard copy.
- At the request of the President, sent information to all members on various issues.
- Prepared an annual Secretarial Expense report from May 2014 to May 2015.
- Requested reimbursement for producing *Proceedings* and miscellaneous expenses.

Treasurer – Mariette Moan, ASCJ – Sister Mariette submitted a financial report for the 2015 National Assembly. The actual cost was approximately \$10,000 under the budgeted amount. She presented a *Budget Forecast Sheet* in which she made some suggestions and asked the Board for some line item clarifications. Lastly, Sister Mariette presented her Treasurer's Report from August 1, 2014 to May 15, 2015. To date the National Conference of Vicars for Religious is solvent. Sister Mariette also noted that she was not comfortable with the NCVR Certificate of Deposit being with Merrill Lynch; she suggested putting it with the Knights of Columbus who now have investments that better reflect Catholic values. The Board approved her continuing the conversation with the Knights of Columbus. Sister Mariette requested from Sister Nancy a list

of NCVR Assembly scholarship recipients and the individual amounts awarded. From now on the treasurer will write a check out to the NCVR for the total amount of the scholarships given for the Assembly.

Region Reports:

Eastern Region – Mary McGarrity, IHM – Sister Mary reported nothing new since the March Business meeting.

Western Region – Eymard Flood, OSC – Sister Eymard reported that nine Vicars from the Western Region attended the National Assembly in March. All expressed gratitude to the Midwest Region for its part in planning and hosting the National Assembly. Sister Eymard noted that during the regional gathering at the Assembly planning began for the Fall Regional Assembly at the Dominican Motherhouse on October 6-8, 2015. The theme will flow from the letter titled, *Keep Watch* issued from the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. A Sister of the Holy Family will lead the group in reflection for the first evening. Sister Eymard noted that the membership in the Western Region is holding steady and that the members are busy conducting activities for the *Year of Consecrated Life*.

Southern Region – Marlene Weidenborner, OSF – Sister Marlene was excused from this meeting with nothing new to report since the March Business meeting.

Midwest Region – Ellen Dunn, OP – Sister Ellen noted nothing new to report since the March Business meeting.

Old Business:

1. Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) – Sister Nancy will check one last time with the Executive Director, Sister Sharon Euart, RSM about the possibility of obtaining membership status for the four regional chairpersons of the NCVR.
2. Assembly 2015 – The Board reviewed the “Evaluation Form Tabulation.” Over all, the participants rated the Assembly as excellent. The speakers were very well received. The members also offered suggested topics that could be addressed during the Board meeting with the *Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life* in March of 2016.
3. Proceedings – The members had already received their hard copy of *Proceedings* in the mail. Overall the Board was pleased but noted a few typographical errors. Sister Joyce corrected these and sent an electronic version to Brother James and Sister Mariette to post on the website.
4. Membership in the NCVR – Discussion centered on revising the current Membership/Contact Information Form. The Board was asked to submit their suggested revisions before the end of May. The Board also discussed the need to send an invitation to join

the NCVR to current nonmembers, including Bishops of dioceses who do not have a Vicar for Religious. Sister Nancy will write a special letter of invitation to be sent to these bishops.

5. Vocation Education in Seminaries – Brother James noted that a letter was sent to all Seminary Rectors recommending that some form of education on consecrated life be included in the curriculum. Sister Joyce suggested speaking about this at the Rome meeting. The National Religious Vocation Conference prepared a packet of vocation promotion/education materials that was sent to all of the bishops. It was the understanding of some on the Board that these packets also were sent to all of the pastors. Brother James reported having sent a letter to all of the pastors in his diocese reminding them to use the packet. According to other Board members, pastors that they knew did not receive this packet.

New Business:

1. Website – The website has been a work in progress and continues to develop. Brother James McVeigh, OSF and Sister Mariette Moan, ASCJ reported that the target date for the website to go “live” is June 15, 2015. They gave the Board a special link to access the site before its going “live.” The url address will be: www.ncvreligious.org The members’ login will be: **USERNAME = member, PASSWORD = AlphaOmega**. Brother James and Sister Mariette also noted that each Region will have its own page. The regional chairs for the Eastern and Western Regions are asked to submit information for their region to Brother James; the regional chairs for the Southern and Midwestern Regions are asked to submit their information to Sister Mariette. All that needs to be submitted would be content and/or photos with some identification. Brother James and Sister Mariette noted that there is a template put together by the Eastern Region that might be helpful. They also noted that the Conference will pay hosting fees to Synergic Systems. The hosting fee will be \$20 per month and \$10 for the domain name. Sister Ellen Dunn, OP asked if the Regional Chairs could have a blog on their page. Sister Mariette will check on this. Brother James offered to contact Fr. Robert Herbst to inform him that the “old” website will be removed from the internet. They also noted that the webmaster will be “outsourced” and that Sister Mariette has already contacted someone to consider this position.
2. 2015-2016 Budget – See the Treasurer’s Report. Sister Mariette had some clarification questions. She noted that she will prepare the current budget after making her revisions.
3. Rome 2016 – Sister Nancy suggested two different weeks to go to Rome: March 3 – 7, 2016 or March 10 -17, 2016. She asked that the Board members get back to her with their preference by May 22nd. Regarding the issue of seminary education on consecrated life, Sister Nancy will check with Fr. Shawn McKnight before he leaves his post to see if he could obtain an appointment with the Director for Catholic Education in Rome. Sister Nancy will also explore the possibility to meet with the Rector of the North American Seminary in Rome. Sister Ellen Dunn, OP noted that she will be giving up the position of Chairperson for the Midwest Region. Sister Nancy suggested having the Conference

pay for the travel, lodging and evening meals for the Board. Other expenses would be the responsibility of each Board member. The Board agreed to this. Regarding the availability of lodging in a religious house within walking distance to the Vatican, Brother James will check with Brother Paul Bednarczyk, CSC and Sister Mariette will check possibilities while she is in Italy this summer. The Board suggested several topics of interest for discussion:

- i. Issues on International Religious, their situation, orientation programs, etc.
 - ii. The importance of Diocesan Vocation Offices including education on the meaning and role of consecrated life, especially religious life.
 - iii. A profile of religious life according to the National Religious Retirement Office.
 - iv. Covenanting between and among religious congregations.
 - v. Effects of the *Year of Consecrated Life* within the dioceses of the United States.
- Sister Eymard offered to compose a questionnaire to be sent to the NCVR membership that will address the above listed issues. She will send the Board a draft of this questionnaire for its approval by the beginning of August. The membership should receive it by the end of August with a two week due date. Sister Nancy will prepare a cover letter to accompany the questionnaire. Sister Eymard will tabulate the results and forward these to the Board by October 15th. The membership will receive the final document before the Rome meeting.

Sister Mariette offered to prepare a message of gratitude to the *Congregation of Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life*; this would be presented at the meeting. Sister Mariette also offered to book the flight tickets for the Board from either Newark or New York to Rome. The Board members need to give Sister Mariette their return date by the November meeting. Sister Mariette will speak to the Undersecretary of the Congregation and ask for an updated flow chart. Sister Nancy will ask Father Lemoncelli if it is possible to show a PowerPoint presentation during the meeting with CICL/SAL. She will also check to see how much time we will have (the last time we had 90 minutes). The Board agreed to share the writing of the various reports. Sister Nancy will try to arrange for the Board to have an audience with the Holy Father with seats in the front rows as well as Mass at his Santa Marta residence. Sister Nancy then asked the Board to suggest some other places of interest to visit while in Rome. It was suggested to visit St. Mary Major, St. John Lateran, St. Paul Outside the Walls, the *Fosse Ardeatine* and the *Scala Santa*. Sister Mariette offered to invite the Board to her Generalate in Rome for lunch one afternoon.

4. Elections 2016 – the Board agreed to ask Sister Maryann Seton Lopiccio, SC to chair the National Election process which will be done electronically. She will work with Brother James and Sister Mariette in setting this up on the website. Sister Maryann will be asked to put together a slate of nominees with a brief statement from each of them. The ballots will be mailed via the U.S. postal service. Sister Nancy will notify the members about this process and how it will work. The regional elections will also be carried out in a similar electronic process. Sister Nancy will install the newly elected Board members at the May 13-15, 2016 Board meeting.
5. 2017 Assembly Date – Sister Nancy will check with Sister Connie for either March 12 - 15, 2017 or March 19 -22, 2017 for the 2017 National Assembly dates.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Sister Joyce Candidi, OSHJ
NCVR Secretary
June 2, 2015