



**Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association
(CAVA)**
Spring 2017 Newsletter
www.VocationsCava.org



Upcoming Events

Religious Brothers Symposium

Br. Jim McDonald, CFC

The National Symposium on the Life of the Religious Brother was held at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana on the Feast of the Annunciation March 25th, 2017. The program was based on the Vatican Document the “Identity and Mission of the Religious Brother in the Church” and was sponsored by, in part, the Brothers Think Tank, an arm of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM); the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC); the Religious Formation Conference (RFC) and the University of Notre Dame.

The symposium was not only for religious brothers but also for priests, sisters, laity and students interested in learning more about the vocation of the Religious Brother. Some 197 Brothers as well as 43 lay persons, sisters and priests from 38 different communities from different parts of the globe were present. The keynote speaker was Br. John Mark Falkenhain, OSB, professor of psychology St. Meinrad’s Seminary and the responders were Br. Ton Sison, C.PP.C. from the Catholic Theological Union and Br. Peter O’Loughlin, CFC – Edmund Rice Christian Brothers.

John Mark characterized the charism of the religious brother as “an uncomplicated witness by choice” whose mission is to bring Christ to the poor and the marginalized. He spoke of the beauty of the vow of celibacy and how it fosters a special intimate relationship with Christ. He also talked about how the vow of Poverty gives hope to those who are involuntarily poor and how Brothers find joy and fulfillment without the trappings of having money. He offered an insight on how the vow of Obedience is the path towards conversion. He spoke of Community and how it is distinctive to religious life and special where a Brother can love and transfer love to others - where Brothers can live joyful lives filled with zeal and intimacy with God.

May 27, 2017
Archdiocesan Celebration of
Religious Jubilees

July 1, 2017
CAVA Membership
Registration Begins

August 30, 2017
CAVA Opening Gathering

September 21-22
Catholics on Call
Click: [Partner Conference](#)

Oct 13-14, 2017
Chicago’s Got Sisters

Oct 20 or Oct 21, 2017
Holy Fire
www.formedcatholic.com

Nov 16 – 18, 2017 NCYC
<http://www.nfcym.org/ncyc1/>

After the responses from Ton and Peter the group adjourned to lunch. The afternoon was taken up by a panel discussion followed by 3 breakout sessions. The group reassembled for a summary of these sessions. Capping off the symposium was a reflection given by Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.S.s.R. The highlight of his remarks included the fact that a religious vocation is a mystery of love and that living out one's charism, a gift given by God, is the journey of a lifetime. After some concluding remarks the assembly adjourned to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of Notre Dame where the Cardinal presided over mass for all present.

Note: May 1 was established as Religious Brothers' Day. In honor of this special celebration, CAVA is dedicating a page featuring some of our CAVA members who are Religious Brothers. Visit:

<http://www.vocationscava.org/religious-brothers-day/>

CAVA Education Day

On April 3, 2017, several CAVA members gathered at the Holy Family of Nazareth provincial house to learn from three CAVA member presenters. Sr. Theresa Sullivan presented on ways to connect to potential discerners and how to keep that connection and also how to involve her community. Sr. Kathleen McClelland provided a system and a handy chart for recordkeeping. Sr. Michele Vincent Fisher offered her top ten best practice on time management. Many thanks to our presenters in sharing their wisdom, expertise, and time. We hope to offer more Education Days for members going forward.

CM/YA Committee Activities 2016-2017

Here are some highlights of the Campus Ministry/Young Adult (CM/YA) Committee activities this year:

Chicago's Got Sisters Retreat |
Chicago, IL

March 31 – April 1, 2017

This spring, There were six women who participated.

Communities visited were the Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Daughters of Charity, Little Sisters of the Poor, and the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters..



The panelists were Sister Lovina Francis Pammit, OSF, Sister Beth Ann Baricevich, SSSF, Sister Susan Paweski, SP, Sister Adriana Calzda, CCVI, and Sister Ann Marguerite de Jesus, psdp. Drivers included Sr. Kathleen McClelland, RSM and Sr. Mary Kay Brooks, SSND.

Hands-ON+Hearts-IN

The week of May 15 – 19, 2017 there are two women signed up for the vocation discernment outreach in Holly Springs, Mississippi with three CAVA women's communities participating. This experience was piloted by several others beginning in 2015. For information, visit <http://www.vocationscava.org/hands-onhearts/> .

Future Dates: August 28-September 1, 2017, September 18-22, 2017, May 7-11, 2018, May 21-25, 2018, August 20-24, 2018 and September 10-14, 2018.

Interested in participating? Contact: Sr. Sharon Glumb, SLW sglumb@slw.org;847-5775972 ext. 233 (work); 601-291-6738 (cell). Hands-ON+Hearts-IN is a vocation discernment program for single Catholic women age 18 to 40s initiated by the Sisters of the Living Word in collaboration with the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA) and Sacred Heart Southern Missions.

Other CM/YA activities are as follows:

- Four BPRs on three university campuses with approximately 71 retreatants. Ten CAVA members participated (2 helped twice). Universities also had other companions of their choosing.



Three “Pizza with Volunteers.” Expanded beyond Amate House to LaSallian Volunteers. Ten CAVA members, up from six last year, visited with 25 volunteers.

Online Discernment Group for women has been operational all year with ten women currently interested.

Growing relationship and collaboration with Archdiocesan Office of Lifelong Formation’s Youth and Young Adult Ministries Team.

- First invitation to the Altar Servers’ Mass and Reception. Great experience.
- Written committee reports sent with agenda allows time for efficient meetings with more creative ideas expressed.
- Active participation from those unable to attend through conference calling.



Communications Committee Activities 2016-2017

The CAVA Communications Committee was established last year to address the challenges in posting information on our website and managing how communications are handled internally and externally, providing valuable support to the CAVA coordinator and members. Projects include:

- The new “Vocation Voices” feature
- Monthly CAVA Updates for members and quarterly Newsletters for partners, CAVA friends available to the public on the website.
- Regular website content management and posting of announcements, resources and events on the public side and Members Page.
- Resource page now includes other languages, backgrounds, Black Catholic and Youth.
- Continued consistent Facebook postings thanks to our “offsite” member, Fr. Adam.

VAPS Committee Activities 2016-2017

This year, the Vocation Awareness for Parishes and Schools (VAPS) Committee continues to work hard on connecting with parishes and schools. Below is a list of their vocation awareness events since October.

- Holy Fire: Archdiocese Event for 6th - 9th graders: 10/14-10/15/16
- St. Christina: Vocation Parish Fair 1/8/17
- St. Mathias School: Vocation Talks 1/30/17
- St. Theresa School: Vocation Panel 2/2/17

- St. Priscilla: Vicariate IV Altar Server Appreciation Day 3/11/17
- St. Viator High School: Vocation Fair 3/21/17



- St. Benedict Parish: Vocation Awareness: Parish Fish Fry 3/10 & 3/24/17
- St. Michael South Shore: Vocation Parish Fair 4/1-4/2/17
- St. Louise de Marillac School: Vocation Panel 4/5/17
- Marist High School: Career Fair 4/6/17
- St. Cletus Parish: Vocation Parish Fair during Pancake Breakfast: 4/9/17
- St. Margaret of Scotland School: Vocation Panel 4/12/2017

Hundredfold Archdiocesan Vocations Workshop

Parish vocation workshops on building or reviving a parish vocation team were held at Our Lady of the Mount on March 24 (presented in Spanish by Leticia Cantú Ramirez) and at St. John Brebeuf on March 25 (presented in English by Rhonda Gruenewald) The book “Hundredfold” written by Rhonda will soon be available in Spanish. Visit www.vocationministry.com for more information and resources.

Online Discernment

Our CAVA Online Discernment program currently serves single Catholic women ages 18 to 40. This program offers opportunity for discerners to chat via Skype once a month with other women about religious life to discuss topics such as vows, discernment, ministry, prayer, and community. We hope to develop a men’s group soon! For details and to share with others visit: <http://www.vocationscava.org/online-discernment-group/>

Vocation Voices

Get to know some of our CAVA members - check out our “Vocation Voices” featured consecrate men and women. Visit <http://www.vocationscava.org/vocation-voices/>

Any comments, questions or if you wish to be involved, you may contact:

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