



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



Upcoming Events

Dear Friends:

The Archdiocese of Chicago has a new look and the long awaited website was finally launched last month. As a ministry of the Office for Religious, CAVA will take on the new branding starting with this newsletter. In the meantime our newsletter will continue to feature the scoop on our vocation awareness promotion activities!

SEEK2017: FOCUS Conference

Sister Rose Therese, O.S.F.

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened." Mt 13:33 NAB

In 1998, a tiny seed was planted with just two young missionaries at a college campus on a mission to evangelize the students. This group, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), has grown into a strong and vibrant tree with missionaries on college campuses across the country. They have revitalized the Catholic faith in many young people and drawn many to the Church. They have also inspired many religious and priestly vocations.

I have been attending their national events for a number of years now. They get bigger every year. A few CAVA members including Sister Theresa Sullivan, DC and Sister Aprilia Untarto, SSpS also made the trip down to San Antonio to attend their big conference. This year's conference, SEEK2017, hosted over 12,500 attendees. Most were college students who were touched in some way by the FOCUS missionaries serving at their Newman Centers. A good number are missionaries, generally recent college graduates who give two years to serve on college campuses. They are given special training and then are sent off to a college campus to invite, to pray with and for students, to lead bible studies, etc., basically to form new disciples.

**Here I Am Lord
Conference
March 2-5, 2017**

**National Catholic
Sisters Week
March 8-14, 2017**

**Hundredfold
Workshop
March 25, 2017**

**Chicago's Got Sisters
March 31- April 1, 2017**

**Hands-ON+Hearts-IN
May 14-20, 2017**

As far as vocation events go, the FOCUS conferences, both SEEK and the Student Leadership Summits, have been the most fruitful ones for me as a vocation director. The young people still have some trepidation, but they are trying to be open to God's call. The speakers at the conference always try to inspire them to follow the Lord more deeply. I've had more people sign-up and more people stop by to talk with me at this conference than at any other vocation fairs I have attended.



“SEEK is a wonderful way to connect with young people who are interested in consecrated life and to connect with FOCUS Missionaries working with young adults. Three years ago at SEEK I met a college senior discerning her vocation who became a FOCUS Missionary after graduation. February 2016 she brought 3 discerners to our Gulf Coast’s Got Sisters (GCGS) event, and this February she is bringing six women to GCGS! Another 6 are coming from University of South Alabama who were also FOCUS Missionaries.” Sister Theresa Sullivan, DC

Next year in January, we will have the privilege to host the FOCUS Student Leadership Summit in Chicago. This is a smaller group than SEEK, last year it was about 3000, but they are the “cream of the crop”. I would encourage vocation directors and Catholic volunteer or mission groups to attend. Even if you can’t attend, FOCUS is always in need of support as it continues to grow and influence more young adults.

Visit their website at: <https://www.focus.org/> | Overview of SEEK2017: <https://seek2017.com/>

Busy Person’s Retreat (BPR) Update

by Fr. Harold Fisher, OMI

Calvert House at the University of Chicago offered the annual Busy Persons Retreat (BPR) to students during winter and fall quarters of this academic year. We began with Sunday evening Eucharistic celebration followed by a brief orientation meeting and concluded the week with pizza social and faith sharing on Thursday evening.

The first BPR took place the week of October 8, 2016 in which students who serve the faith community of Calvert House in the parish council were strongly encouraged to participate. The fall retreat was attended mainly by the students who serve on the council. Sr. Bernadine Gutowski, OSF, Fr. Chris Gibson, CP and I served as spiritual companions. The students commented positively about their new insights into Scriptures and how the retreat helped them with their personal discernment.

Another retreat took place the week of January 15, 2017. Sr. Beth Ann Dillon, DSMP, Fr. Chris Gibson, CP and I served as the spiritual companions for this winter retreat. Similar feedback came throughout this retreat. There is something very amazing about the students at Calvert House and the difference that they have made in the faith community and neighborhood.

We thank the members of CAVA Campus Ministry/Young Adult (CM/YA) who served as spiritual companions for these BPRS and other retreats that take place throughout the year.

CAVA Advent Reflection/Christmas Gathering

On December 13, 2016, several CAVA members with guests participated in an Advent contemplative experience facilitated by Sister Joyce Shanabarger, OSF then enjoyed an early Christmas celebration with a meal and fun and games.



CAVA Membership

As CAVA continues our efforts in promoting vocation awareness and providing support to those discerning their vocation, our goal of expanding our membership and collaborators is bearing fruit. CAVA has increased its membership to 84 members representing 35 women's communities, 14 men's communities, two lay organizations and the Archdiocesan Vocation Office. We continue to invite others to participate in our mission to promote a vocation culture in the Church by becoming a member or by supporting our programs. Visit our website www.vocationscava.org and contact cava@archchicago.org or call 312-534-5240 for information.

Cardinal's Archdiocesan Celebration of Consecrated Life

On Sunday, January 29, 2017 about 270 consecrated women and men gathered at St. Paul of the Cross parish in Park Ridge representing 66 communities/organizations to celebrate Consecrated Life Day. The theme was "Promoting a Culture of Vocations: Deepening Our Theology of Vocation." The talk and PowerPoint presentation by Divine Word Missionary, Fr. Steve Bevans, SVD may be accessed from the Office for Religious (OFR) website: <http://www.officeforreligious.org/ofr-events/>

Chicago's Got Sisters Retreat | Chicago, IL March 31 – April 1, 2017

Spread the word! For single Catholic women ages 18-40. Pray and share with Sisters from different religious communities in the Chicago area as you discern your vocation. This weekend is a great opportunity to serve and be a part of community life, while asking questions about discernment and getting answers in real time. Sponsored by the Office for Religious/Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA). For more information, contact Sister Theresa Sullivan, D.C. at sistertheresa.sullivan@doc.org or 812-963-7556. Visit <http://called2.be/CGSMar17> to register.



Hands-ON+Hearts-IN

We currently have two women discerners signed up so we are inviting both Religious Sisters to serve as companions and more women (age 18 to 40) participants.

When: May 15-19 (travel days are May 14 and May 20) for that whole week or part of the time

Where: Holly Springs, Mississippi (Lodging at Sacred Heart Southern Missions volunteer house)

Program Description: Visit <http://www.vocationscava.org/hands-onhearts/>

For more details, 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 initiated by the Sisters of the Living Word in collaboration with the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA) and Sacred Heart Southern Missions.

Hundredfold Archdiocesan Vocations Workshop

On March 25, an archdiocesan vocation workshop will be held at St. John Brebeuf in Niles. Speaker Rhonda Gruenewald of Vianney Vocations will present on building or reviving a vocation team in the parish.

For details and registration information go to: <http://www.chicagopriest.com/hundredfold-workshop>

National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW)

The celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week is March 8-14, 2017. To explore, visit <http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/index.php>. A very informative article, "Understanding U.S. Catholic Sisters Today" is accessible online at:

http://www.nationalcatholicsistersweek.org/resources/FDC_001_Report.pdf and videos on *(un)veiled:*

Deconstructing the Habit are accessible at: <http://tinyurl.com/zpalcan>. The ongoing story of NCSW is told at SisterStory: <https://www.sisterstory.org/>

NCSW LOCAL EVENT: All are invited to attend!

What: Prayer Service to kick-off the 2017 National Catholic Sisters Week (NCSW) March 8 – 14, 2017

When: Tuesday, March 7, 2017, over the lunch period (begins at 12:00 noon)

Where: Catholic Theological Union (CTU), 3rd floor atrium

5416 S. Cornell Ave, Chicago, IL 60615

Hosted by Giving Voice, the Religious Formation Conference (RFC), National Religious Vocation

Conference (NRVC), Communicators for Women Religious (CWR), and the Center for Consecrated Life

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 and other website features

Our February "Vocation Voices" feature is Fr. Mike Scherschel, Assistant Vocation Director in the Archdiocese of Chicago, Director of Admissions at St. Joseph College Seminary, and CAVA Advisory Board member. Check it out! <http://www.vocationscava.org/vocation-voices/>

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

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