

CAVA NEWSLETTER

www.VocationsCava.org

[Spring 2016](#)

Dear Friends,

Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

In this newsletter you will find numerous updates on activities and events from the past few months in which the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA) members, partners and friends are involved in one way or another. Included are invitations to participate or support an event. We hope the articles serve to inspire you to partner with CAVA in promoting a culture of vocations in the Church as we faithfully follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ as Easter people - ones who cannot help but share the GOOD NEWS and "make disciples of all nations"!

May the joy of Christ's resurrection be in your heart and overflow to be shared with others!

Chicago's Got Discerners!

Sr. Theresa Sullivan, D.C.

Chicago's Got Sisters and Yes - Chicago's Got Discerners! Four women attended the Oct 30 – Nov 1st. Chicago's Got Sisters. On the evaluation one discerner wrote; "I really enjoyed hearing everyone's story of how they came to understand their vocation and discern which order to join." The women visited the Benedictine Sisters of Chicago, Carmelites, Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth, Sisters of the Living Word, Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago, and Daughters of Charity. Sr. Theresita Donach, CSFN coordinated the vocation panel which included Sr. Diane Therese, LSP, Sr. Lovina Pammit, OSF; Sr. Mary Paul Asoegwu, DDL; and Sr. Agathe Bramkamp, SSPS.

Currently we have 9 women registered for the April 15-16 Chicago's



Upcoming Events

April 10 – 14, 2016

Busy Person's Retreat –
Northwestern University

April 15 – 16, 2016

[Chicago's Got Sisters Event](#)

April 17, 2016

World Day of Prayer for
Vocations (WDPV)

April 19, 2016

[NRVC Midwest Region Spring
2016 Gathering](#)

May 02, 2016

VAPS Committee Meeting

May 04, 2016

CM/YA Committee Meeting

May 12, 2016

[End of Year Gathering](#)

May 24, 2016

CAVA Advisory Board Meeting

June 18, 2016

Archdiocesan Celebration of
Jubilees

Got Sisters. Please continue to spread the word. We will visit the Felician Sisters, Daughters of Charity, Franciscans of the Eucharist of Chicago, Carmelites, and the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth. Panelists include: Sr. Gloria Tamayo, MM, Sr. Belinda Monahan, OSB, Sister Chioma SLW, Sr. Sheila Lehmkuhler, FMM, and Sr. Evelyn Ovalles, SP.



Please hold us in prayer.



Catholics on Call Young Adult Conference

Paola Tai

The 2016 Catholics on Call Young Adult Conference would like to be a resource for you to support young adults on their faith journey and forming passionate, faithful Catholic leaders within the Church and society!

Do you know any young adults attracted to a life of service in the Church or wondering about a call to ministry as a lay person, religious, or priest? Tell them about our Summer Conference on **August 3 – August 6, 2016** at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

- 4-days conference to hear scholars offer insights about vocation and ministry
- Meet outstanding church ministers sharing the stories of their

CAVA End of Year Gathering

May 12, 2016
Felician Convent
3800 W. Peterson, Chicago
[REGISTER NOW](#)

World Youth Day Chicago 2016 – Get involved and/ or Donate!

WYD Chicago is July 30 – 31 (starts 5:00 p.m. Saturday through midday Sunday ending with Mass and dinner) at Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine. Registration is coming soon for participants and Exhibitors. CAVA Members and Friends of CAVA are invited to participate, help with committee work and support this event through monetary and/or in-kind donations. Go to: yamchicago.org/events/wyd-chicago-2016 for more details and to register.

service and their calls

- Enjoy the company of peers asking similar questions about the future
- Registration fee is only \$100 (includes all conference programming and room and board)



Please help us to spread the word! More information can be found on www.catholicsoncall.org

Busy Persons Retreats

Br. James McDonald, C.F.C.

The University of Chicago held their winter Busy Person Retreat (BPR) from January 17th to the 21st. Ten retreatants signed up and were companioned by Sisters Dot Dempsey, Maureen Fagan and Sheila Lehmkuhle. In addition to meeting with their spiritual companions, the students participated in a variety of activities throughout the week including daily mass and opportunities for celebrating the sacrament of reconciliation. They also prepared simple dinners and blankets that were distributed to the homeless. The week concluded with a wonderful dinner prepared by the Campus Minister Elizabeth Weigel and along with one of the peer ministers Sarah Young.

A Lenten BPR was held with DePaul University from February 15th through March 13th. Both graduate and undergraduate students attended this retreat. Two CAVA members were involved as spiritual companions: Sr. Beth Anne Baricevich and Fr. Jim Osendorf. In addition, two Daughters of Charity were also spiritual companions. There were gatherings at the beginning and at the end of the retreat which allowed the retreatants to attend mass and share a meal followed by a conversation on the value of the retreat.

On Sunday February 21st eighteen students participated in the BPR at St. Xavier University. Three Sisters of Mercy and three CAVA members including Fr. Anthony Marshall and Sisters Mary Terese Giblin and Teresa Marron were their spiritual companions. Fr. Marshall presided at the opening Mass and at the liturgies. For the first time Campus Ministry had the registration totally online and it seemed to work well. The spiritual companions had planned to have dinner together on Wednesday evening followed by a gathering with their retreatants to spend an hour making

sandwiches; an activity which was planned by the alums. However, due to blizzard conditions, this activity was canceled.

The Busy Person Retreat Scheduled for North Western University will take place the week of April 10th to April 14th.

NCYC: Young Adult Ministry at its Finest

Sr. Connie Bach, PHJC

Back in November I had the awesome experience of attending my first National Catholic Youth Conference (NCYC) in Indianapolis. I can only say it was awesome! I was very inspired by the sheer numbers of high school and young adults present (over 24,000!). Their enthusiasm and joy was contagious, and their love of their faith was exuberant! I also witnessed many kindnesses done one to another of which I had always hoped our world would know!

NCYC was a grand experience of CAVA and NRVC members collaborating, willing to be present among teens, parents, pastors and youth ministers, to answer questions and to just be real! For me, it was also a great, fun way to meet other vocation people and to network.

One of my favorite experiences was being a part of the *Feed the Hungry* food packing ministry. What an exciting thing to experience firsthand— hundreds of people from mixed generations and backgrounds coming together to literally make a difference in our world. In shifts of participants, we were putting our faith into action! Simply by standing alongside a brother or sister, putting 50,000 food packets together and boxing them – we were collaboratively feeding the hungry all over the world (Mt. 25).

Stimulating, moving prayers and liturgies were highlights of my NCYC experience as well. I was awestruck by the talent of the young adults shared in music, interpretive dance, and creative prayer. I can only imagine what our world will be like as the next generation, with their unleashed creative energy, will bring to our church and our world. It will be epic!



April 1, 2016 Archbishop Meeting with Leadership

This year, vocation ministers are invited to the annual meeting of leadership teams from Religious communities with Archbishop Cupich. Brother Paul Bednarczyck, C.S.C. will be the morning session presenter. Let us pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance and God's blessings for a fruitful gathering!

“Renew my Church” Consultation of Religious for the Parish Planning Process

Consecrated Men and Women in Chicago are invited to meet with Archbishop Blase J. Cupich on **Wednesday, April 20th at 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm at St. Priscilla Parish** (hall in the basement of the church). Please confirm your attendance by visiting the following link, or by emailing Olivia Lee at olee@archchicago.org by: Wednesday, April 13th: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/archreligious>

Food Fight Vicariate I Event for Year of Consecrated Life

The January 11 ‘food fight’ at the *Feed My Starving Children* warehouse in suburban Chicago was designed to spotlight the World Year of Consecrated Life (YCL). Organized by religious communities on the northwest side of Chicago and nearby suburbs, the food fight drew 56 religious and student volunteers from the Allegheny College Newman Club to assemble family meal packets. Both teams came together at the end of the evening to bless the food that would be shipped to Uganda from the FMSC warehouse in Schaumburg, IL. We thank the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth: Sr. Theresita Donach for coordinating the event, Judith Horak (Communications Director) for submitting the information and Sr. Angela Szczawinska for the photos.



St. Viator High School Vocation Fair

Sr. Kathleen Skrocki, CR

St. Viator High School in Arlington Heights has a Vocation component in their Religion Curriculum for every level. The Sophomore class has an annual Vocation Fair and the VAPS committee for CAVA is invited to be the presenters.

On Tuesday, March 8th, 10 Vocation Directors brought their displays; “freebies” and their winning personalities to the students. This year we were fortunate to have presenters representing Sisters; Priests and Brothers so the students were able to get a good “picture” of Church Vocations. The Sophomores were paired up in groups and were required to “interview” 3 presenters. They got to record our responses on their I-Pads and then had to take a “selfie” as part of their assignment.

Those selfies were real hits with the groups!!!! Before the classes left, there was a drawing for gift cards donated by the presenters. The students appreciated those (most of them were food prizes) as it was something they didn't expect.

The best comment received from the students was "that they got to see the Church at work." We have already been invited back for next year so we can share our life with the young women and men in Arlington Heights. All of us felt that it is a day well spent!!!



Year of Consecrated Life Closing Liturgy January 24, 2016

Roughly 500 consecrated men and women gathered at the Holy Name Cathedral on January 24 to celebrate with Archbishop Blase Cupich the closing of the Year of Consecrated Life in Chicago. (The international closing celebration was February 2). This event took the place of the annual Celebration of Consecrated Life Day. Visit [Office for Religious videos](#) for the video gallery featuring the reflections on the Magnificat and Archbishop's homily.



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

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