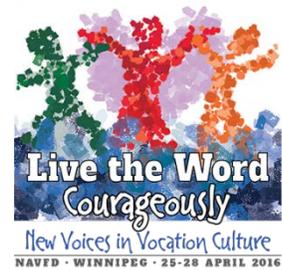


National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors Conference

April 25-28, 2016

**Clarion Hotel Winnipeg
1445 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba**



Enclosed in this package, you will find the following:

1. General Information
2. Hotel Information
3. Keynote Speaker Information
4. Workshop Session Details
5. **Registration Form**

1. General Information

The conference begins on Monday, April 25, 2016. Registration is from 4:00 - 6:30 PM. Welcome & Opening Ritual begins at 7:00 PM. The Conference will close Thursday, April 28, 2016 with a Ritual at 11:15 a.m.

The registration fee includes a light Reception on Monday night, continental breakfast each morning, nutrition breaks each day, lunches on Tuesday and Wednesday, and the banquet on Wednesday. The other meals are on your own.

Conference Fees *in Canadian funds:*

NAVFD Member	\$450
Non-NAVFD Member	\$475

Please send your completed Registration Form with cheque or money order made payable to NAVFD to:

NAVFD Conference
St. Benedict's Retreat Centre
225 Masters Ave.
Winnipeg, Manitoba R4A 2A1

Cancellation Policy: There is no penalty if registration is cancelled before April 5, 2016. Any cancellation after April 5, 2016 will not be refunded. Substitutions are acceptable at any time.

The cost of registration does **not** include your hotel stay expenses.

Your cancelled cheque (money order duplicate) is your receipt.

Option: On the free night, there will be an optional trip to the local shrine of blessed Bishop Martyr Vasyl Velychkovsky, C.SsR. for a perogy dinner in the church hall followed by a tour. As we need to book the buses, please indicate on the registration form if you want to be a part of this excursion. The cost for this is not included in your registration fee. There will be a cost for the bus and a free will offering for the perogy dinner.

2. Hotel Information

The Clarion Hotel at 1445 Portage Ave, Winnipeg is where the conference will be held and where all the amenities are waiting to make your stay delightful. Free parking, high speed wireless, mini fridge, microwave, in room coffee, fitness centre access, family water park, hot tub to mention just a few. Located just steps from Winnipeg's largest shopping mall-Polo Park.

Reservations for hotel accommodation are to be made directly with The Clarion Hotel and are not included in the conference registration fees. To make your room reservations, call toll free 1-855-216-6393. When registering, identify yourself as a participant at the National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors Conference 2016 and request the conference rate (\$129.00 plus taxes per night).

For more information about this venue: www.clarionhotelwinnipeg.com

3. Keynote Speakers



Keynote Speaker #1: Fr. Scott Lewis, S.J. is the academic dean of Regis College, Toronto School of Theology, as well as an associate professor of the New Testament. He served in the U.S. Navy for several years and entered the California Province of the Society of Jesus in 1979. After ordination in 1987, he studied Scripture in Rome, obtaining the Licentiate in Sacred Scripture from the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Doctorate in Sacred Theology from the Gregorian University. He taught and worked for two years in Jerusalem before coming to Toronto in 1997. From 2008 to 2014, he was director of the Jesuit Spiritual Renewal Centre in Pickering (Manresa) in addition to his teaching duties at Regis. Fr. Lewis

presents insights on the Sunday Gospel readings each week in the *Catholic Register*. His main research interests are the Gospel of John, Apocalyptic Literature, New Testament Spirituality, and Religious Violence.

Presentation: God is Really among You! Recovering the Transcendent in Religious Communities (based on 1 Cor. 14:25)

One of the problems facing religious communities today is that they have become virtually invisible and in many ways indistinguishable from the culture in which they dwell. In a series of short biblical reflections, I will explore the attraction of the community of the people of God over the centuries. Both in the Old Testament and the New, it was the overwhelming sense of God's power and presence in the community and a vital ethical life that distinguished them from other religious traditions. Recent studies of religious culture in Canada indicate that many people, especially the young, hunger for both religious experience and a sense of genuine community. I will propose ways in which we can revitalize religious life by drawing on our unique spiritual traditions and practices and distinguishing ourselves from our cultural milieu.



Keynote Speaker #2: Amy Hereford is a Sister of St. Joseph. She has been in religious life for over 30 years and has served in a variety of ministries, in education, in administration and in communication.

She has degrees in science, communication and theology, as well as in civil and canon law. Amy will reflect on our theme in light of the flavour of her recent book, *Religious Life at the Crossroads: A School for Mystics and Prophets* (Orbis Books, 2017). Amy's lived experience and research

gives her a unique perspective on examining religious life in the context of church, culture and society and on what it means for the life of religious and laity alike.

Presentation: Nurturing Mystics and Prophets

Vocation and Formation for religious life, taken together, are the process by which men and women encounter and join a religious congregation, are initiated into its spirituality, life and mission, and gradually become members of our communities. It is a process, not a program. The programmatic elements play an important role in the process. They facilitate discernment. They help candidates to grow in knowledge and wisdom about God, spirituality, community and charism. They help in personal development, self-knowledge and skill-building. They help gain literacy in theology and ecclesiology, in peace, justice and integrity of creation, and a host of social issues. I will explore the essential process of personal and vocational growth that the program must foster. I will invite us to consider our communities as schools for mystics and prophets where all of us are in formation. Places that nourish the deepest longings of the human heart. Places where we fall more deeply into God, into Love. Places where we are mystically transformed into the image of God, the deepest truth of our being. Thus transformed, our words, our works and our very being are prophetic.



Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C., has been serving in his position as NRVC executive director since July 2002. A graduate from Stonehill College with a B.A. in English, he also has a M.A. in Religion and Religious Education, with a concentration in spirituality from Fordham University. His prior ministries include 12 years of secondary education in Maryland and Rome, Italy, where he was a teacher, campus minister, and administrator, and nine years as vocation director for the Congregation of Holy Cross, Eastern Province of Brothers. As NRVC executive director, he oversees an organization of nearly 1,000 members

representative of 16 different countries. Brother Paul serves as a consultant to Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life, and Vocations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and has written numerous articles on religious life and vocation ministry. Brother Paul has been invited to speak on vocation ministry throughout the United States, as well as in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, England, France, and Italy.

Brother Paul's presentation will bring us an update on the plans and activities of the National Religious Vocation Conference in the United States. As well, Brother Paul will speak about the results of the recent study, 'The Role of the Family in

Nurturing Vocations to Religious Life and Priesthood' which will be of great benefit to all involved in nurturing any vocation.



Facilitator: Sister Teresita Kambeitz, OSU, Ph.D. is the Assistant Director of Religious Education for Newman Theological College in Edmonton and coordinates the Master of Religious Education program offered for teachers in the Saskatoon extension-site. She also teaches in the Lay Formation program and is a well-known speaker and facilitator at retreats and conferences in the Saskatoon Diocese and beyond. Sister has also served in vocation and formation ministry as well as congregational leadership. She enjoys classical music, reading historical books, traveling, and socializing with Sisters, family and friends.

Sr. Teresita will lead participants through the conference in a way that leaves each person not just with new information but with a sense of moving forward with the learnings from the keynote presentations, the workshops and the interaction with like-minded persons.

4. Workshop Session Details

1. “NEW WINE, NEW WINESKINS-SOCIAL MEDIA STRATEGIES” – Veronica Dunne, RNDM

In the past, religious families grew by simple presence and word of mouth. Letter writing nurtured friendships and provided spiritual support across the miles. Today, social media challenges us to new and creative ways to share our lives, build communities, grow in faith and provide formation resources. Now, seekers can explore vocational opportunities at the click of a button. Asynchronous discussion boards allow for global dialogue and learning opportunities. Facebook, Twitter, and blogs encourage regular readership and interaction. Emailing is the new letter writing. Texting is the new note exchange. Social media is becoming more accessible to all. This workshop will explore some simple resources for using online tools in vocation and formation ministry, and strategize together how best to use them - without being a techno-geek.

Presenter: Born on the Canadian prairies, Veronica Dunne is an educator, counsellor, and group facilitator, who has sought to help create open spaces with/for persons and communities. Veronica is a member of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions (RNDM) and has lived and worked in diverse cultures - which has sharpened her sense that we must learn new ways of being in relationship with one another and with earth. Veronica's doctoral thesis explored ways that marginalized groups might use the resources of cyberspace to build open/spacious communities, share insights, expand learning, celebrate diversity, and strategize common actions.

2. “VOCATION DISCERNMENT IN THE IGNATIAN STYLE“ –Fr. Len Altilia, SJ

Using and teaching Ignatian spirituality in the process of vocation discernment.

Presenter: Fr. Len Altilia spent 16 years as Vocation Director for the Jesuits in English Canada and was also Formation Director for two different periods in that same time span. Most of his experience has been in secondary education (25 years) in Montreal, St. John's and now Winnipeg where he is currently President of St. Paul's High School.

3. “EASTERN SPIRITUALITY AND THE NEW EVANGELIZATION”- Fr. Gregory Hrynkiw, ASTH

Reanimating the Church by Tradition from the Suffocation of ‘traditions’: explore how Eastern monasticism harmonizes the active and the contemplative, solitude and community; discover how our true selves are revealed within the Liturgical Cosmos; learn how the Eastern Church practices the imitation of Christ; dare to live out the wisdom of the beatitudes.

Presenter: Fr. Gregory has been a Byzantine-Catholic monk since 1989. He completed all his priestly formation in Rome (1997). While serving as Provincial Superior of the Basilian Order in Ukraine, he fought on the front lines against systemic corruption in Ukraine. After suffering threats to his life, he was ordered to return to Rome. In 2010 he made his solemn profession of solemn vows into the “Hermitage of the Three Hierarch”. The Hermitage is a form of consecrated life under the jurisdiction of Bishop Bryan Bayda, CSSR (Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Saskatoon), which follows the “middle path” of St. Gregory of Nazianzus, uniting both the contemplative and active aspects of monastic life. In June of 2014, hiermonk Gregory completed his doctoral dissertation in Sacred Theology in Rome. At present, he is in Saskatoon preaching missions and retreats, teaching within the lay formation program and lecturing at St. Thomas Moore College at the University of Saskatchewan.

4. “CLEARNESS COMMITTEE DISCERNMENT PROCESS”-Kalyn Falk

A Quaker model for discernment, introduced by Parker Palmer, will be presented. This workshop will involve experiential learning, story-telling and reflective inquiry.

Presenter: Kalyn Falk, MA, is a spiritual director, trainer, author and advocate. In addition to her theological training, Kalyn studied extensively in the areas of conflict resolution and developmental psychology. Her book, ‘Mother of the Year and Other Elusive Awards: Misadventures in Autism’ was in the top 5 best sellers in non-fiction at McNally's Bookstore for 2014. She lives with her family in Winnipeg.

5. “MINISTRY 2021: WHERE ARE YOU?” -Lesley Sacouman, SNJM

How is God calling consecrated women and men to live interdependence for a just world? What needs are emerging?

These questions sparked a two year educational movement within the Sisters of the Holy Names Congregation and its broad outreach. As we explored God's transformative action in the world today, how can we create together just, intercultural living communities? Come and see. Where are you?

Presenter: Sr Lesley says that 'learning how to live as an intercultural community is an urgent and life-giving reality for me and one that makes my life rich.' For 32 years, Sr. Lesley has worked with Indigenous street youth. For the past 11 years, she has lived and worked with newcomer women at Holy Names House of Peace in downtown Winnipeg. A life guiding principle of hers is captured by Oriah Mountain Dreamer: "If you have come here to help me, then go home. But if you have come because your liberation is tied up with mine, then let's work together."

6. NEW GOSPEL "COMMUNITIES"-Panel

While some form of 'religious life' has been around for 2000 years, the Spirit has always raised up from within her people different community responses to the living the call of the Gospel. This workshop will be a panel presentation by members of three such communities who, inspired by various Christian spiritual traditions, seek to give authentic expression to gospel values in today's world.

-the **Chemin Neuf** Community is a Roman Catholic community with an ecumenical vocation, which grew out of a prayer group in Lyons, France in 1973. It currently has around 2000 members in over 30 countries. The Winnipeg community began in 2010. Couples, families and celibates, men and women, have chosen the adventure of community life to follow Christ poor and humble, in order to serve the Church and the world.

-**House Blend Ministries** has its gospel roots in the Mennonite Brethren Church of Manitoba. Influenced by the Rule of St. Benedict, it consists of women and men whose mission is to honour God by creating caring communities through whole life discipleship with and among people who are poor in West Broadway, an inner city neighbourhood of Winnipeg. Their inspiring 'Rule of Life' is a living document that reflects the gospel values of contemplation, community and connection.

-**Christian Life Community** (CLC) consists of small groups of men and women from various Christian churches who are striving for a deeper spirituality that helps them find God in all things. Inspired by Ignatian spirituality they commit themselves to the formation and growth required in living a full Christian communal life in today's world. Their mission in the Prairie Region of Canada is to connect and collaborate with marginalized people, the Society of Jesus, First Nations and others to challenge the root cause of isolation and poverty.

Each panelist will tell a brief story of their community, reflect on how the Gospel continues to inspire new expressions of community in our day, and how society's social and spiritual needs are being met by these communities. This will be followed by a short Q and A opportunity.

Panel Members:

Ted and Nancy Woods are members of Chemin Neuf. Ted is a deacon and Director of Pastoral Services for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg and Nancy manages St. Charles Retreat Centre.

Rachel Twigg Boyce is a retreat director, spiritual director and the founding pastor of House Blend Ministries.

Marek Gajda is Winnipeg Coordinator of the CLC Canada Prairie Region since 2012.

7. “SHARING OUR WISDOM AS CHURCH”-Cathy Laviolette, SNJM

As you set out to develop and revise formation programs today, what is your focus? Might it be that the foundations of our Catholic faith need strengthening? This presentation will focus on an adult faith-formation process ‘Nathanael’ that has been in our Archdioceses of Winnipeg and St. Boniface for over the past 25 years. Together we will explore the dimensions of this holistic program and see how we might need to incorporate these dimensions into initial formation processes today. The values of offering those who come to religious life the possibility of strengthening their own faith journey through the various lenses presented in the ‘Nathanael’ and similar programs cannot be underestimated.

Presenter: Sr. Cathy is the Provincial Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary in their province of Manitoba. For the past 30 years, she has been involved in Adult Faith Formation through parish ministry and now, for the past ten years, as Facilitator and Director of a three-year adult faith formation process “Nathanael” in the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. She is also involved with Vocation-Formation ministry in her own congregation.

8. “I’M NO PRIEST, SO WHAT NOW?”- Panel

In our present society, the question of discerning a vocation often stops at the possibility of religious life. Many young adults do not realize that a vocation can entail so much more. If and when they become aware of the different possible vocations, discerning becomes quite a laborious task. Young adults are in need of many things to truly understand where God has called them. During this workshop we will be exploring some of these needs. The need of silence and the need of good role models will be examined. We will also discuss the need to change the distorted image of vocations that the ‘culture of death’ has created.

Presenters: Michelle Thiessen has been the Youth Coordinator for the Ukrainian Catholic Archeparchy of Winnipeg for the past 6 years.

Christian Martinez serves the Archdiocese of Winnipeg as Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Mireille Grenier ministers as the Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Saint-Boniface

9. “THE ENNEAGRAM SYMBOL: A CHALLENGE TO RELIGIOUS COMPLACENCY’-Carol Ann Gotch

This workshop will explore the Enneagram as a soul symbol for life-long transformation beyond the oft-used and limiting notion of merely knowing one’s ‘number’. How can the Enneagram symbol enlighten our search for meaning in a world that desperately calls out for each of us to be fully human and fully alive?

Presenter: Carol Ann is a spiritual director, teacher and a workshop facilitator in soul, spirit transformation. She is presently program coordinator for the spiritual directors’ training program, Prairie Jubilee. Carol Ann along with her partner in life and ministry David Walsh, co-authored the book, Heart and Soul of the Enneagram: Reflections on Inner Work and the Enneagram. She has been studying and teaching the enneagram for 35 years. Carol Ann holds a Master’s degree in Spirituality from the Graduate Theological Union from the University of California, Berkeley.

Workshops Registration

Please choose only ONE workshop from each block and record your choice in the space provided on the Registration form

Tuesday April 26th

Workshop Block 1

2:00—3:00 p.m.

1. New Wine, New Wineskins-Social Media Strategies-Veronica Dunne, RNDM
2. Vocation Discernment in the Ignatian Style- Fr. Len Altilia, SJ
3. Eastern Spirituality and the New Evangelization: Gregory Hrynkiw, ASTH

Wednesday April 27th

Workshop Block 2

11:00—12:00 pm

4. Clearness Committee Discernment Process - Kalyn Falk
5. Ministry 2021 'Where are you?'-Lesley Sacouman, SNJM
6. New Gospel Communities- panel: Rachel Twigg Boyce, Marek Gajda, Ted and Nancy Wood

Wednesday April 27th

Workshop Block 3

1:30—2:30 pm

7. Sharing our Wisdom as Church - Cathy Laviolette, SNJM
8. I'm No Priest, so What Now? - Young adults' panel: Michelle Thiessen, Mireille Grenier, Christian Martinez
9. The Enneagram Symbol: a Challenge to Religious Complacency-Carol Ann Gotch.

This will be a wonderful conference and the Planning Committee and the Board are delighted to welcome you to this exciting gathering.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Sr Nancy Sullivan, Executive Director of NAVFD at navfdco@gmail.com.

Reservations for HOTEL accommodation **are to be made directly** with the **Clarion Hotel** and are NOT included in the conference registration fees. Please call 204 774 5110 and identify yourself as a NAVFD Conference participant when making your reservation in order to receive the conference rate of \$129/night plus taxes (single/double occupancy).

This will be a wonderful conference and the Planning Committee and the Board are delighted to welcome you to this exciting gathering.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact: Sr Nancy Sullivan, Executive Director of NAVFD at navfdco@gmail.com.

See you there!