



The National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors (NAVFD)

May 2019

SAVE THE DATE!



Save the Date! The Board of NAVFD and the members of the Planning Committee are very excited to invite you to plan now to attend our conference from April 29 -May 2, 2020 at the Sheraton Newfoundland Hotel in beautiful downtown St. John's, Newfoundland! We are very fortunate to have attracted three excellent speakers who will inform and inspire under the theme of 'Calling to

New Horizons': Dr. Richard Gaillardetz, Sr. Margo Ritchie, CSJ and Fr. Daniel Horan, OFM. More information will be available in our June newsletter.



ReligiousFormation CONFERENCE

The Religious Formation Conference invites everyone to their Congress to be held October 24 to 27, 2019 in Louisville, Kentucky. For more information: <https://rfccongress2019.com/>

PayPal: On the membership registration form this year, we asked you how likely it would be that you would pay by credit card if this were an option. Two thirds of you responded that you would and so, receptive as usual to the wishes of our members, you now have the opportunity to pay your membership fee, your Conference 2020 registration fee and/or a donation using PayPal.

Go to the Donations section of navfd.info and complete the appropriate section for your purposes: <http://navfd.info/donate/>.

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navfdco@gmail.com

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WEBINAR: SCREENING CANDIDATES

NAVFD is offering a webinar entitled, 'Screening Candidates' - **Friday, June 7 at 1 pm Eastern Time** led by Dr. Eran Talitman.

Dr. Talitman is a licensed psychologist in the province of Ontario. He has been working at Southdown Institute since 1998 and is currently the Clinical Team Leader there. He provides assessment and psychotherapy services to religious and clergy as well as consulting services to leadership. Some of the workshops he has offered include 'Responding to the Call to Healthy Priesthood' and 'Developing Healthy Ministerial Boundaries.'

Dr. Talitman will be sharing with our members various red flags to be attentive to when meeting with potential candidates to priesthood, religious life and lay leadership. Dr. Talitman's presentation will include but not be limited to issues regarding sexuality.

In October of 2018, NAVFD issued a statement on sexual abuse entitled, "[Toward Light](#)" (click link to open) In this statement is noted: *"We participate in and will continue to support and develop best practice in strategies for the assessment and screening of candidates to religious life and to holy orders and for positions of lay leadership in the Church."* This webinar then is one way to live out this promise.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/3941019754>

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 394 101 9754

HABITS OF THE HEART—SURVIVING AND THRIVING AS A YOUNG(ER) RELIGIOUS TODAY

with Fr. Ron Rolheiser, OMI

A retreat for Religious 55(ish) and under, serving the people of God in Canada (or with some affiliation). A time of input, silence, communal prayer, and conversation. The retreat invites us to ponder the habits of our heart that we need to embrace or abandon, to live and respond whole heartedly as younger Religious today in our communities, church and world.



Queen of Apostles Renewal Centre,
Mississauga ON July 14 - 19, 2019

\$775 (or \$875 with ensuite)

Registration Deadline June 1
for information or registration contact
Céline Belliveau, nds
(ndscgen@rogers.com)



PhD Clinical Team Leader **Eran Talitman** is a licensed psychologist in the province of Ontario. He has been working at the Southdown Institute.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY



The Canadian Religious Conference (CRC) is seeking a new Executive Director.
For more information:
www.crc-canada.org

NAVFD: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019

President's Report

I present this President's Report with much gratitude for all that has occurred during the year since our last Annual General Meeting held at the very successful NAVFD Conference in Hamilton, Ontario in April 2018.

Firstly, on behalf of the Board of NAVFD I thank each of the members for their faithful support, their vision and many initiatives for the life of vocation ministry in Canada and beyond.

Special gratitude to our Board members, Sister Elaine Arsenault, SSS, Sister Joanne O'Regan, CSM, Brother Denis Clavaz, FPM and Father Tomasz Puslecki.

The work of NAVFD would not be possible without the hard work, vision and great creativity of Sister Nancy Sullivan, CSJ Executive Director who has done an outstanding job throughout the year in enhancing the Association's activities including newsletters, conference planning and establishing closer ties with the National Religious Vocation Conference and the Religious Formation Conference in the United States. NAVFD has just hosted an excellent Webinar featuring Fr. Dan Horan, OFM who is to be one of our keynote speakers at the upcoming 2020 Conference to be held in Newfoundland. Sister Nancy also continues to support and to enhance our social media platforms. Special thanks to Sister Nancy for all her work to expand and enrich NAVFD, for her excellent communication skills, her energy for

vocation ministry and unfailing commitment despite her otherwise busy schedule.

For the first time in the Canadian context we now have available to us the extensive findings of the completed study of new vocations to religious life in Canada. Reports of the key findings of the research have been distributed to every Congregational Leader throughout the country in either French or



English, as appropriate. The full research report may be found on our website. In addition to leaders of religious communities the Report has been sent to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Canadian Religious Conference. We have received very positive letters of gratitude from each of these organizations. NAVFD continues to ask each of our members to ensure the wide dissemination of the research results.

The Board, with Sister Nancy, is now working hard to look at possibilities for the effective use of the research results. Next steps include identifying the wishes and needs of members across the country for NAVFD initiatives that will help deepen and expand vocation ministry nationally and locally. Strategic planning and the development of materials for vocation ministry will follow. To

better include religious leadership in vocation ministry, the Canadian members of UISG have invited NAVFD to present and discuss the research findings and their application at their 2020 gathering to be held in Montreal in November.

Within the context of reports of wide-ranging sexual abuse in the Church and given our Association's responsibility to contribute to the integrity of vocation ministry the Board considered it vital that the Association publish a public statement on abuse. October 2018 our statement entitled, "*Toward Light*": *Statement on Sexual Abuse* was published on the website. We request that all members please read the statement.

I am grateful to have continued, on behalf of NAVFD, our relationships with our U.S. counterparts. This October, I will be presenting a workshop on discernment for the Fall Institute of NRVC to be held in Louisville, KY. I am also privileged to continue on the Editorial Board of *Horizon* and that work has included expanding Canadian contributions to the journal.

Sister Nancy's Report to follow will include more details of our work this year and so it remains to me to continue to thank each of you as we seek to "grow" and share our work together for the flourishing of a vocation culture in Canada in service of the Gospel, the Church and our World.

Mary Rowell, CSJ,
NAVFD President 6 May, 2019

NAVFD: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019CONTINUED

Executive Director's Report 2019

It continues to be my pleasure to serve you as your Executive Director. I enjoy my connections with the members and the Board as well as some outside connections. Since the last AGM held on April 23, 2018 during our conference in Hamilton, much has taken place.

We received great feedback about last year's conference with some people going so far as to say that it was the best NAVFD Conference ever. That may be so but only until Conference 2020 is held in St. John's, Newfoundland next year then it will be the best ever! At our conference last year, it was the first time that we had used French translation as another step to becoming truly a national organization.

The monthly newsletters continue to be disseminated. We welcome your feedback about what you like or don't like or suggestions for future editions. We also welcome articles

written by you the members giving your perspective or some formation or vocation initiative happening in your area.

We welcomed two new Board members who have been a fantastic addition to NAVFD: Presentation Brother Denis Claivez of Toronto and Father Tom Puslecki, Assistant Vocation Director for the Archdiocese of Edmonton. They represented NAVFD at the annual J.S. Paluch Vocation Seminar in Chicago in the summer.

We also have initiated PayPal for the purposes of ease for our members paying their annual dues as well as the registration for Conference 2020 as well as for donations. You don't even know that yet because it will be announced in our May newsletter.

We co-sponsored with the Religious Formation Conference a

webinar by Fr. Dan Horan on the topic of the Pope's encyclical Gaudete et Exsultate. He was a very good speaker and will be one of the keynote speakers at our conference next year in Newfoundland. The dates of the conference are April 29 to May 2, 2020.

We continue to support with advertising the retreat for Religious under the age of 55 years which had arisen out of the Winnipeg conference in 2014. It is proving to be a wonderful experience and grounding for younger religious.

Thank you to our President Mary Rowell and our Board members and all of you for your support over this past year and I look forward to being with you in St. John's, Newfoundland next year: April 29-May 2, 2020.

Nancy Sullivan, CSJ
NAVFD Executive Director

