



The National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors (NAVFD)

February 2020

CONFERENCE

Applications are steadily flowing in for the Conference in St. John's, Newfoundland from April 29-May 2 but there is still plenty of room for you! In case you missed it on Facebook, watch this 94 second video which will show why NAVFD's conference 'Calling to New Horizons' is the only place to be at the end of April. <https://www.facebook.com/634125483362511/videos/164376844850595/>



In communication with the keynote speakers, they are as excited to be with us as we are to be with them!



Keynote #1: 'I Call You Friends': Toward a New Theology of Vocation - Dr. Richard Gaillardetz

Traditional Catholic understandings of vocation often focus on four states of life: consecrated religious life, priesthood, Christian marriage, the single life. This presentation will propose a theology of vocation that focuses on the call to Christian friendship as the primary relational vocation of all the baptized.

Keynote #2: Where is This Place Called 'Here'? Sr. Margo Ritchie, CSJ

Borrowing a phrase from Irish poet Padraig O Tuama, Sr. Margo will begin to describe the landscape of this place called 'here' as a starting point for conversation among us. How we name this place called 'here' influences what we see...and what we don't see. Through the lens of call she will explore with us the image of the "adjacent possible".



Keynote #3 Discernment, Vocation, and Formation in the Thought of Pope Francis - Fr. Daniel Horan, OFM

In keeping with the vision of a universal call to holiness expressed in the documents of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis has frequently written and spoken about need to attend to discernment in the lives of all the baptized.

Recognizing consecrated religious life and ministerial priesthood as subsets of a broader theology of vocation, this presentation explores what the pope's contributions to the themes of discernment and vocation have to offer to renewed consideration of religious formation and vocation ministries.

For registration package: <http://navfd.info/2019/06/27/conference-2020-registration-now-open/>

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TOGETHER PROGRAM



If you are a member of a religious women's community or men's religious community with brothers, we invite you to consider the *Together* program for your newer members.

***Together* is a collaborative for theological education, formation, and community cosponsored by the RFC and Catholic Theological Union (CTU).**

Together offers a cohort-based, residential theology program for religious sisters and brothers in temporary vows and for newly perpetually professed religious who commit to participation in the 3 program components: theological education, formation, and community.

The program consists of at least one full year of study

that would lead to a certificate in an area of theology/spirituality, or two-three years of study that would lead participants to earn a master's degree in theology, pastoral studies, or divinity.

The *Together* program application deadline is June 1, 2020.

More information about the *Together* program, including the application, can be accessed online at: www.together-formation.com

Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have questions and/or want more information. I hope to see you online soon!

Karina Conrad, CDP Together Program Coordinator
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NAVFD MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020

Being a member of NAVFD entitles you to receive the monthly newsletter, participate in NAVFD webinars, receive a lower rate on conference registration and have a presence of your congregation, organization, diocese on our website vocations.ca. The main reason though for becoming a member is to support the workings of NAVFD which fosters a culture of vocations across Canada. Thank you for your support!

Believe it or not, some of you who are reading this news-

letter are not currently members of NAVFD! You can change that right now. The membership form is attached for you to complete and mail or email to navfd-co@gmail.com and then you can either mail in the fee or send it through PayPal in the Donate section of navfd.info which is: <http://navfd.info/donate/>.

An interest in vocation or formation ministry is the criteria for membership.

THE SURPRISING JOURNEY OF PRAYER *SAVE THE DATE for Religious 55ish and under*

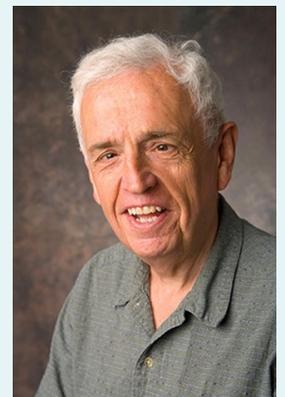


This retreat will be an opportunity to reflect in prayer on the blessings of both the hills and valleys of our religious vocations. Sessions will include Scripture, time for silent prayer, community sharing and opportunities for personal conversations.

Guiding our retreat experience will be Sr. Bernadette O'Reilly NDS and Fr. Larry Gillick SJ.

Sunday July 26th (evening) - Saturday August 1st, 2020 (morning)
Queen's House of Retreats, Saskatoon, SK

Registration is open! Visit aroundthewell.ca for more information and registration details.



RISE UP CONFERENCE

From December 28 to January 1, people from across Canada attended the Catholic Christian Outreach [CCO] "Rise Up" Conference. The theme, "Anchored," based on Hebrews 6:19, was particularly relevant to the setting on Toronto's waterfront.

The objective of the organization is to identify and nurture "Missionary Disciples" who will seek a personal, intimate encounter with Jesus and lead others to share in that experience. The young missionaries work on university campuses, in parishes, or in foreign missions. The conference included Liturgies, praise and worship services, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, opportunities for the reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, and a commissioning service. The group, some 1300 strong, went to St. Michael's Cathedral, where Cardinal Collins celebrated the anticipated Mass for New Year's Day.

Cardinal Collins based his homily on the hymn "O GOD BEYOND ALL PRAISING," by Michael Perry, the last verse being:

To marvel at your beauty
And glory in your ways,
And make a joyful duty
Our sacrifice of praise.

In his homily Cardinal Collins emphasized our blessings without number and mercies without end as reasons for gratitude and our need to recognize that our journey with Christ is a marathon not a sprint.

Keynote speakers recurred to the fact that our growth in intimacy with Christ operates in a kind of cycle of going forth and being enriched by our service which in turn increases our knowledge and love of Christ and our ability to become more effective missionary disciples.

One of the positive effects of such a gathering is that it enables participants to see that there are other people around who want to place Christ first in their life. While society in general does not support moral values as it

did when we were younger, there are still young people willing to spend their energy in building a society "brick by brick" where Christian values may flourish. They heard that, as Pope St John Paul II had said in his 2002 visit to World Youth Day in Toronto, "a new generation is being born who will renovate our society."

These young people were named the new generation and encouraged to take up the challenge.

Angèle Regnier (one of the co-founders of CCO) on New Year's Eve called their attention to the fact that the New Year begins 2020. We talk about having "2020 vision" and we mean by that having clear and distinct vision. We were encouraged to pray for the clear vision to focus in 2020 on what we desire for our world and to

take steps, however small, towards realizing that vision of what our society could be.

Costanza Romano, CSJ

