



The National Association of Vocation & Formation Directors (NAVFD)

January 2020

WHAT VOCATION DIRECTORS CAN LEARN FROM THE YOUTH SYNOD, PART 2

What is the role for religious, especially vocation ministers and those who support them?

We need to form relationships with young people. Then as that develops, we can accompany them through listening to them, spiritually guiding them, helping them to discover a path to happiness. We can help them to see that vocational discernment is a path to freedom, a path of liberation and transformation.

Did the synod point toward any suggestions for vocation ministry?

If you really want to reach young people, to be with them, you need new styles, maybe new spaces for what you do. You need to be a very flexible person, and you have to be on a journey of transformation yourself. One of the problems I see, in France anyway, is that in parishes you often have people who say we have always done it this way; we don't want to change. And that attitude just doesn't work.

It's not a question that God is no longer calling young people to religious life or priesthood but that the Holy Spirit is calling them in new ways and for us "to be with them in new ways.



experience of the synod. It was really beautiful. In the midst of the synod, the young people had so much energy and joy and hope.



It's a really big challenge because religious life can be very institutionalized and it's not so easy to change and be open to new ideas and creativity.

But if we receive the gift of youth, the church will be renewed, and that was exactly the

Contact Us

navfdco@gmail.com

Visit Us

www.vocations.ca

www.navfd.info/

Like Us

on Facebook...

[NAVFD](#)

Follow Us

on Twitter...

[@NAVFD2](https://twitter.com/NAVFD2)

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*

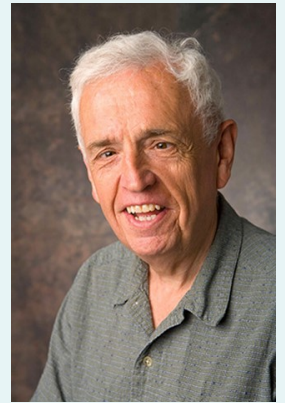


This retreat will be an opportunity to reflect in prayer on the blessings of both the hills and valleys of our religious vocations. Sessions will include Scripture, time for silent prayer, community sharing and opportunities for personal conversations.

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.



CONFERENCE 2020: CALLING TO NEW HORIZONS

Remember to register for the conference by Feb. 1, 2020 to have your name entered for our Early Bird Draw.

Registration information is available at <http://navfd.info/2019/06/27/conference-2020-registration-now-open/>

Here is information about some workshops that will be available at the conference:

Catechetical Formation of Candidates for Religious Life: Challenges and Opportunities--
Tony Bidgood, C.Ss.R., MDiv

Narratives of Expanding Relations—Morgan Gardner, PhD

Exploring our personal and culture narratives of expanding relations to our human and more-than-human world is at the heart of today's spiritual life. How do we stand-in-relation to our global human and ecological world? How do we navigate this complex, sacred journey that is spirit-filled with dreams and possibilities and also fraught with challenges and 'crises' of faith? How are our identities, commitments and expressions of agency being transformed by living in greater relation to all of life? This workshop shares stories of individuals and groups reflecting on their spiritual journeys – their pilgrimages of expanding their embodiment of relational being and practice. In doing so, this workshop becomes an invitation to reflect on our own journeys of expanding relations.

Who are our Newest Members? A Look at Millennials and Gen Z-- Sr. Ellen Dauwer, SC, PhD

This presentation will begin with an overall look at the two most recent generations: Millennials and Gen Zers. It will then focus on Catholics in these generations and conclude with a look at characteristics of members of these generations who are entering religious life. CARA and Pew research will form the foundation of the presentation.

