NRVC National Religious Vocation Conference

DELAWARE VALLEY MEMBER AREA

Delaware Valley Member Area Zoom Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2023 10:00AM - Noon

Members present:
Sr. Carol Ann Nawracaj OSF, Sr. Cathie Meighan, SSJ, Sr. Diane Tomkinson, OSF, Sr. Jean Rhoads, DC, Fr. Joseph Narog, OSA, Ms. Kim Walker (Sisters of the Redeemer), Sr. Lisa Valentini, MSC, Sr. Maria Angeline Weiss, SCC, Sr. Maria Ines Aparicio, FMH, Sr. Maryanne Tracey, SC, Sr. Mary Ann Spaetti, IHM, Fr. Michael Joyce, O. Carm., Sr. Michele Fisher, CSFN, Mrs. Nancy Costello (MSC Cabrini Sisters),

Opening Prayer: Power point prayer led by Sr. Michele Fisher, CSFN

Presentation by Sr. Mindy Welding, IHM on the "Gift of Mission" Program

Sister Mindy Welding, IHM, currently ministering as the Delegate for Religious in the Diocese of Pittsburgh, joined us via Zoom this morning to give a brief history of the "Gift of Mission" program for high school students. This program has been used for over 15 years in local Catholic high schools, retreat centers and Congregational Motherhouses throughout our Member Area. It has been done mainly with groups of high school girls, but in 2020 was presented by the Archdiocese of Newark to a co-ed group of high school juniors. The program invites students to consider the question: "How am I called to love?" and to introduce in particular, the vocations of religious life and priesthood.

Sister Mindy explained the various components of the program and how it has been adjusted based on various circumstances. She encouraged us to continue to develop and utilize the program with our varied groups. Sister Mindy has sent a jump drive to Sr. Michele Fisher, Member Area Coordinator, containing all parts of the program as done in the various places mentioned above. Sister Michele can send files electronically to anyone interested in pursuing the program.

Sisters Carol Ann Nawracaj, OSF, Cathie Meighan, SSJ, Christine Ma, MSBT and Michele Fisher, CSFN met three times over the summer to initiate plans for a Fall Discernment Retreat weekend to be held in the Philadelphia area.

After being unable to find a retreat house with availability for the two possible weekends we were seeking and after a conversation between Sister Michele, Sr. Kim Kessler, CR and the campus ministers at Villanova, we decided to try for a one day retreat experience to attract a wider group of interested participants from various universities. It is our hope that if we can make enough contacts with our campus ministers and young adults, we may have enough interest to host a full weekend discernment retreat in New Jersey in late spring of 2024.

Sister Maria Ines Aparicio, FMH agreed to contact San Alfonso Retreat Center in Long Branch, NJ, Sister Mary Ann Spaetti, IHM, will contact the IHM Retreat Center in Stone Harbor and Sr. Cathie Meighan, SSJ, will contact the Sisters of St. Joseph Center for Spirituality in Ocean Grove and let us know of any available weekends. Maris Stella Retreat House in Harvey Cedars is another possibility.

The fall retreat will be held on **Saturday, November 4th** from 10 AM – 5PM at Redeemer Valley Farm and the Transformation Center, 521 Moredon Road, Huntingdon Valley, Pa 19006. This is the former motherhouse of the Sisters of the Redeemer. All are welcome to join us for the day! Please contact Sister Michele if you are able to be present.

The basic overview of the day was shared and several members offered suggestions for activities and possible speakers. Sister Michele will bring these ideas to the next planning meeting.

The committee will meet again during the first week of September. Sisters Anita Bolton, CR and Anne Marie Haas, CR will be joining the planning committee.

As soon as it is ready, Sister Michele will send out a flyer to all members. Please share this information with any young adults you are in contact with as well as campus ministers at universities and colleges where you have contacts.