

NRVC West Coast Zoom Meeting Minutes

Nov 29, 2023, By Fr. Vien

From 9:30-10:30 am

15 Participants: Sr. Karin Nuernberg, CSJ; Sr. Marita Olango, FDZ, Fr. Eric Cruz, SSCC; Sr. Mary Johnson; Ms. Irene Benavidez, Sr. Lisa Laguna, DC; Fr. Bruno D'Souza, CP; Sr. Mary Dobrovolny, RSM; Sr. Elizabeth Liebert, SNJM; Fr. Radmar Jao, SJ; Sr. Monica, FMA; Fr. Andrew Laguna, SJ; Sr. Gaby Mandez; Sr. Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM, and Fr. Vien Nguyen, SDB

9:30 - 9:40 am: Father Vien welcomed all the participants and went over the agenda of the day, followed by a quick introduction of all the participants. The common expression was the feeling of happiness to have the opportunity to meet new people and also to reconnect with some old members.

Father Radmar hopes that through this meeting, we can get to know each other more and find a way to support one another. He also hopes that this meeting will open an opportunity for both him and Father Vien as two coordinators for the West Coast to coordinate a plan of meeting and gathering for the Member Area.

9:45 am: Father Vien leads a short opening prayer asking the Holy Spirit to guide the group in this meeting and also pray for vocations.

9:50: Time for sharing, open floor style "What are some joys and challenges in vocation ministry?"

Sister Jocelyn asks Sister Marita if she can share what she has been doing in the Archdiocese of LA. Sister Marita gave an overview of what she has been doing and hopes to continue to make it happen. Shortly, she tries to make the presence of the consecrated life more visible by inviting them to be present at different parishes and schools in the Archdiocese of LA.

Father Radmar shares that his joy is to be a person of vocation for the Jesuit. He is happy to make this type of contribution to the Congregation. He finds challenging to do the work of vocation to plant the seed, but society and family do not help to nurture that seed. Young adult ministry is needed. Sister Monica echoes what Father Radmar has said and emphasizes the joy of working with young adults. There are so many good things happening among the young adult community today. Also, she comes to know that young adults are facing a lot of pain, mourning, and suffering within their hearts.

Sister Lisa Laguna shares her new experience with the new generation of young adults. They make it to a Come & See but have no desire or interest in taking the next step. What is it?

The sharing continues with Father Andrew, Sister Karin, Sister Mary Johnson... Irene shares her role as a layperson working in the vocation ministry. The member recognizes that it is something that can benefit a lot in the work of vocation today. We almost come to share a common theme that we are trying to create a place, an opportunity for young men and women to discern their vocation. We do not want everything to be about the recruiter. We will be happy if anyone who participates in our program will join our

community, but we are also happy to help them find the right place for them by referring them to other communities.

10:15 am: Father Vien gives a quick update on what is happening in NRVC such as the MAC meeting in September. He mentions that they learned about Intercultural Development. It was good and helpful. There were good speakers including Brother Mark Motz, SM, an NRVC MAC who gave a wonderful speech on that topic. He is available if anyone wants to have him as a speaker regarding that topic. Convocation 2024 and other NRVC events are also mentioned in this update.

10:25: Father Vien asks members to think about the plan for the West Coast.

Father Radmar takes on to lead the conversation by giving some thought and hope for the future including the possibility of meeting in person either once or twice a year, Zoom meeting quarterly or monthly. He emphasizes that it is up to us to decide.

Sister Karin Nuernberg would like to meet more regularly. She is concerned that if we meet only quarterly, we will lose the momentum and disconnect. Sister Monica and Sister Marita also agree to meet regularly both ways, one is Zoom quarterly and some type of update on what happens monthly. Father Radmar summarizes the people's sharing and opinions and then concludes that the tendency is to meet on Zoom quarterly and some kind of updating through a list of contact emails. Father Radmar and Father Vien both agreed to follow up on this meeting and give everyone an update as soon as possible.

10:45 am: the meeting ends with everyone joining in to pray a "Hail Mary."