



# Return to close encounters



## COMMUNITIES SERVED

2022

Felician Sisters of North America  
Beaver Falls, PA

2021

Marianist Sisters, St. Louis, MO  
Benedictine Sisters, Mount St.  
Scholastica, Atchison, KS

2020

Carmel of the Sacred Heart,  
Hudson, WI  
Bernardine Franciscan Sisters,  
Reading, PA  
Salesian Sisters, Daughters of Mary  
Help of Christians, Haledon, NJ  
Marist Brothers, Forrest Hills, NY  
Totus Tuus, Pittsburgh, PA  
Dominican Sisters of Mary  
Immaculate Province, Houston, TX

2019

Benedictine Sisters, Erie, PA  
Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and  
Infirm, Germantown, NY  
Conventual Franciscan Friars,  
Castro Valley, CA  
Felician Sisters of North America,  
Beaver Falls, PA

Salesian Sisters, Daughters of Mary  
Help of Christians, San Antonio, TX  
Salesians of Don Bosco,  
New Rochelle, NY

Sisters of Christian Charity,  
Mendham, NJ

2018

Sisters of Saint Joseph,  
Rochester, NY  
Benedictine Sisters,  
Fort Smith, AR  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary, Scranton, PA  
Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids, MI  
Salesians of Don Bosco, East  
Carmelite Sisters for the Aged  
& Infirm  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas,  
South Central  
Congregation of Sisters  
of Bon Secours  
Redemptorist, Denver Province

2017

Apostles of the Sacred Heart  
Congregation of the Holy Spirit  
Franciscan Friars, Conventual  
Poor Clare Nuns, Boston, MA  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary, Immaculata, PA

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, KS  
Sisters of Christian Charity  
Sisters of Providence, Saint Mary-of-  
the-Woods, IN  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia

2016

Dominican Friars, Province  
of St. Martin  
Marist Brothers  
Salesians of Don Bosco  
Parish Visitors of Mary Immaculate  
Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary, Monroe, MI  
Society of St. Joseph  
of the Sacred Heart

2015

Adrian Dominican Sisters  
Congregation of Divine Providence  
Daughters of Mary Help  
of Christians  
Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Felician Sisters of North America  
Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate  
Heart of Mary, Immaculata, PA  
Sisters of the Humility of Mary  
Sisters of Christian Charity

## NFCRV BOARD

### OFFICERS

Cardinal Sean O'Malley, O.F.M.Cap., Honorary Chair  
Father Anthony Vinson, O.S.B., Board Chair and Benedictine  
Monk, Saint Meinrad Archabbey  
Sister Michele Vincent Fisher, C.F.S.N., Vice-Chair and  
Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth  
William Booth, Treasurer, Major Gifts Officer (retired),  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
Sister Charlene Herinckx, S.S.M.O., Secretary and Vocation  
Director of the Sisters of St. Mary of Oregon.

### MEMBERS

Brother Ronald Hingle, S.C., Provincial of the Brothers  
of the Sacred Heart, Province of the United States  
Len Uhal, National Vocation Director, Society of the Divine  
Word, NRVC Board Representative  
*Executive Director* Phil Loftus  
*Emeritus Members*  
Brother Paul Bednarczyk, C.S.C. | Sister Lois Wetzel,  
O.Carm. | Robert Fallon | Carmelita Linden | Keith Armato |  
Father Charles Shelby, C.M. | Mark J. Teresi

COVER PHOTO: MASS ON JULY 1, 2022 IN THE SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS CHAPEL AT SAINT MEINRAD ARCHABBNEY.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BENEDICTINE MONKS, SAINT MEINRAD, IN.

# LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

## RETURN TO CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

IN A HOMILY LAST YEAR, Pope Francis defined what we faithful mean by encounter: Gospel. Crucifix. Witness. Specifically, the Gospel, where we encounter and come to know Jesus by listening to Him; the Crucifix, where we encounter the love of Jesus, who gave Himself for us; and Witness, where we encounter Christ through the charity of others. These three things, Pope Francis says, “bring coherence between our faith and our life, between our words and our actions.”

As the pandemic eased in 2022, we were finally able to return to face-to-face or physical encounters with each other, and in so doing, encounter Christ Himself. We could again get our hands dirty and be among the sheep, as Pope Francis would say. Indeed, in January I led a group of seminarians to do just that—get dirty chopping wood for members of the Louisville, KY, community. Such generous service is what our NFCRV grantees are dedicating their lives to. They are out among the Good Shepherd’s sheep, bringing them the Gospel and the Crucifix. They are living the life of a Christian Witness. In short, they are facilitating close encounters with Christ for all those they serve.

Our goal is to ensure that educational debt does not create an obstacle for these sacred encounters. For those of us at NFCRV—our board, staff, grantees, and generous supporters—we are committed to building what Pope Francis calls a “culture of encounter.” We stop, look, listen, and act, never being indifferent to the struggles of others.

As you review the 2022 Annual Report, you will see we continue to make inroads in terms of our financial strength, mission support, and expansion.

With the support of our founding sponsors and benefactors, including the Helen Brach Foundation, the National Council of Catholic Women, and the members of the Decade of Promise Club—we have developed a healthy portfolio and act as good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us, including charitable bequests and annuities, stock, IRAs and trusts. We welcome the opportunity to work with you and your advisors on a charitable giving strategy. And we look to all of our friends and benefactors to spread the word about the Vocation Fund.

What an honor it is to serve the many Catholic communities in need of Vocation Fund grants. Their unique charisms and witness have led many to Christ. At Mass, we pray that God’s kingdom will be established on earth as it is in heaven. Vocation Fund grants are critically important in making that happen. We thank God for all the inspiring witnesses we’ve encountered on our journey. Please join me in prayer for the future of religious life, as I continue to pray for the intentions closest to your heart.

In Christ, I am



Father Anthony Vinson, O.S.B.  
NFCRV Board Chair



NFCRV Board Chair  
Father Anthony  
Vinson, O.S.B.

In 2022 we  
were able  
to return  
to physical  
encounters,  
and in so doing  
encounter  
Christ Himself.

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OVERVIEW

## IN GRATITUDE

2022 WAS A YEAR OF REOPENING AND RETURNING to what we all knew pre-pandemic. We travelled, attended events, and celebrated together in person. How wonderful it was to be back together.

Let us hope we've learned not to take for granted each encounter we have with one another—to appreciate it and to grow from it.



NFCRV Executive  
Director Phil Loftus

These women and men are on the path to creating encounters with Christ as they minister to those in need. Their interactions with students, migrants, seniors, and ill people help make the Word flesh.

The National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations cherishes the opportunity we have for a diverse set of encounters each year: from religious institutes looking to welcome new members, candidates with educational debt looking to follow their dream, and generous donors who support our efforts, including sustaining partnerships with the National Council of Catholic Women, the Helen Brach Foundation, and the members of our newly launched Decade of Promise Club. Our mission continues because of these significant encounters. Thank you.

We are seeing more interest in and entry into vowed religious life because of you. Some candidates that we awarded grants to in 2015 have made perpetual profession, or final vows. Many others have taken temporary, or first, vows. These women and men are on the path to creating encounters with Christ as they minister to those in need. Their interactions with students, migrants, seniors, and ill people help make the Word flesh. They are able to do this vital work because of you.

We are honored to be endowed with the mission to assist men and women answer their call to religious life by alleviating the burden of their education debt. Our collective support is felt locally and around the world through their ministries. Thank you to all of our donors, past, present, and future. You provide the one of the best encounters of all—generous giving.

Blessings to you and your families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Loftus". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Phil Loftus  
Executive Director  
[ploftus@nfcrv.org](mailto:ploftus@nfcrv.org)

# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

## NFCRV MAJOR DONORS

The NFCRV is grateful to the Helen Brach Foundation and the National Council of Catholic Women for their continued support of our mission as well as the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation and GHR Foundation that helped establish the Vocation Fund for the benefit of NRVC member institutes. Since

its inception, the NFCRV has granted \$1,000,317 toward the educational debt of 50 candidates to religious life. All of this is done through the generous support of our benefactors. NFCRV continues to seek new sources of funding to maintain a sustainable financial model.



HELEN BRACH FOUNDATION

## PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving that includes NFCRV is another way to keep your legacy alive. To find out more about how to include NFCRV in your planned-giving strategy, please contact Executive Director Phil Loftus.

## NFCRV CONTINUES TO GROW THE DECADE OF PROMISE CLUB

In planning for the next generation of Catholic sisters, brothers, and priests, the Vocation Fund welcomed charter members to its newly established Decade of Promise Club. Since launching the Decade of Promise Club, we have collected \$30,000 toward our goal of \$100,000 to assist candidates to religious life with educational debt. Together with our generous donors, we can play a part in supporting the important global work of men and women religious in care, advocacy, and prayer. Learn more at [vocationfund.org/decadeofpromise](https://vocationfund.org/decadeofpromise).



## MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

- The NFCRV Board held meetings in January and June to review investments, plan for future fundraising, discuss grantee progress, and review new grant applications. We are grateful to our Board for their time and talent to help support vocations. Learn more about our grantee communities and their candidates at [nfcrv.org/stories](https://nfcrv.org/stories).

- In July, Executive Director Phil Loftus presented at the National Religious Vocation Conference's Summer Institute and answered questions about the Vocation Fund. In November Phil attended the NRVC's biennial Convocation in Spokane, WA.

- The NFCRV Board convened from October 18-19, 2022, at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Saint Meinrad, IN, home to Board Chair, Father Anthony Vinson, O.S.B. to identify strategic initiatives to advance the Vocation Fund's mission and ensure a financially healthy future.

- In November Board Chair Father Anthony Vinson, O.S.B. attended the 2022 Conference of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) in Minneapolis, MN. Father Anthony expressed the Vocation Fund's gratitude for the Council's continued support which has surpassed \$110,000 in total donations.



Saint Meinrad Archabbey

# FINANCES

## NFCRV STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES, YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2022

	Without donor restriction	With donor restriction	TOTAL
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES, &amp; GAINS</b>			
Contributions and grants	\$ 75,048		\$ 75,048
In kind donations	0		0
Investment return, net	(\$635,907)		(\$635,907)
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS	(\$560,859)		(\$560,859)
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program	106,553		106,553
Management and general	37,296		37,296
TOTAL EXPENSES	143,849		143,849
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	(\$704,708)		(\$704,708)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,951,553		\$2,657,078
END OF YEAR	\$2,246,845		\$2,246,845

## NFCRV STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES, YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2021

	Without donor restriction	With donor restriction	TOTAL
<b>PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES, &amp; GAINS</b>			
Contributions and grants	\$ 57,350		\$ 57,350
In kind donations	17,917		17,917
Investment return, net	381,747		381,747
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS	\$457,014		\$ 457,014
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program	128,326		128,326
Management and general	34,213		34,213
TOTAL EXPENSES	162,539		162,539
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	294,475		294,475
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,657,078		\$2,657,078
END OF YEAR	\$2,951,553		\$2,951,553



# VOCATION FUND IN THE NEWS

## SPOTLIGHT ON THE “BEAUTIFUL” WORK OF THE VOCATION FUND

Vocation Fund grantee Salesian Sister Pamela Rose F.M.A. was featured in a *National Catholic Register* story by Kimberly Jansen on “Eliminating Debt, Fostering Vocations.”

Sister Rose recalled, “feeling ‘awestruck’ the first time she met her aunt, a cloistered sister in the Philippines. However, when she wrote “nun’ on a career inventory at her public school, the teacher sent her to the principal’s office for not taking the assessment seriously.”

Rose says people thought she was joking, but eventually after suppressing her call for time, the desire was reignited after a mission trip in college. Only now she faced a new obstacle to her vocation: educational debt.

Enter the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations.

Salesian Sister Margaret Wilhelm, treasurer of the Salesian Sisters in Haledon, called the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations “a beautiful arrangement.”

“To absorb the level of debt many young women have accrued is staggering. [The NFCRV] helps us say ‘Yes’ to someone discerning in a timely manner.”



Sister Pamela Rose Suresca F.M.A. The Salesian Sisters received an NFCRV grant in 2020 to help service the educational debt of then-candidate Pamela Rose.



## STUDENT DEBT’S IMPACT ON VOCATIONS CAPTURES THE EYE OF WALL STREET

Vocation Fund Executive Director Phil Loftus was featured in a *Wall Street Journal* article by Francis X. Rocca on the obstacle educational debt poses to Catholic religious vocations. In addition to providing background information for the story, Loftus outlined the commitment the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations has made toward addressing the

problem: “The NFCRV has awarded nearly \$1 million to assist 49 people since its founding in 2014.”

Sister Colleen Mattingly A.S.C.J., vocation director for the Apostles of the Sacred Heart, a former NFCRV grantee community, captured the challenge well when she described turning away “two aspirants whose educational debt was too large to pay off before they reached 35, the maximum age allowed for new members.”

Find more Vocation Fund news at [vocationfund.org/news-blog](https://vocationfund.org/news-blog)

**Please pray for all of NFCRV grantee communities and candidates discerning a religious vocation.**

## DECADE OF PROMISE DONORS

Pauline Abbo	John Heitz	Kris Loftus	Regina Pund
Marge Argyelan	Redda Heitz	Maryellen Loftus	Romilda Pund
Eileen Barron	Jo Ann Henneman	MC Loftus	Mary Purk
Jeannie Bellairs	Michael Henneman	Mike Loftus	Gary Purk
Chris Bellairs	Ralph Henneman	Patti Loftus	Therese Quinn
William Booth	Rita Henneman	Paul Loftus	Anthony Redfield
Michael Brennan	Barbara Hickey	Philip Loftus	Meredith Redfield
Augusta Carey	Sara Horkavi	Robert Loftus	Susan Scarafia
Maureen Cetera	Frank Horkavi	Roseann Loftus	Carol Schuck Scheiber
Tom Cetera	Maryjo Howard	Curtis Long	Ben Schwarzwald
Kenneth Coppola	Richard Junod	Claude Lyles	Richard Shanley
Mary Daly	Jim Kennedy	Brian Masterson	Mary Ryan Smith
Richard Daly	Kevin Kennedy	Bernadette McNicholas	Randy Smith
Julia Dolphin Glab	Lorrie Kennedy	Meghan Moore	Gary Sommer
Cathy Domanico	Marian Kennedy	Ross Moore	Judith Stephens
Eileen Drumm	Patty Kennedy	Patricia Moran	Christopher Sylvester
Lisabeth Dunman	Knights of Columbus	Peter Muer	Mary Beth Tighe
Jeff Ebert	Council 6332	Mary Ellen Murphy	Nancy Tuohy
Theresa Ebert	Barb Koch	National Council of	Patrice Tuohy
Kathy Ferris	Doug Koch	Catholic Women	Terry Tuohy
Kathy Fimreite	Greg Koch	Nativity of Our Lord	John Uhal
Duey Fimreite	Mia Koch	Catholic Church	Len Uhal
Adam Fischer	Paul Koch	Council of Catholic	Susie Uhal
Jess Fischer	Mary Kons	Women	Thomas Valdez
William Fitzgerald	Tom Kons	James O'Grady	Alija Vilic
Carol Fulderson	Carl Landegger	Laura O'Neill	Fr. Anthony Vinson O.S.B.
David Fulkerson	James Laurie	Dan O'Neill	Frank Wallmeyer
Ellen Garripo	Stephen Lawler	Amy Penchansky	Judi Walsh
Helen Glunz	Catherine Loftus	Lisa Pettis	Betty Weinzapfel
Joe Glunz	Colleen Loftus	Dianne Potter	Matthew White
James Hart	John Loftus	Kathleen Pouch	Donald Wiener
Liam Healy	Julie Loftus	Larry Pund	



## OUR MISSION

The National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV) serves as a sign of hope in the future of consecrated life and is dedicated to increasing the number of women and men entering religious communities.

The Fund hopes to accomplish this goal by:

- Offering financial assistance to religious institutes so that they may accept candidates who have student loan obligations.
- Assisting congregations in developing policies and resources so that they may work effectively with those who have educational debt.
- Inviting contributors to invest so that the vital legacy of religious life continues for the Church and the world.
- Awarding grants based on need. Any canonically recognized religious institute with membership in the National Religious Vocation Conference may apply for a grant to service a candidate's educational debt during formation.



NFCRV Board Chair Father Anthony Vinson, O.S.B. with National Council of Catholic Women President Pat Voorhes, and NCCW President-elect Beth Mahoney at the 2022 NCCW Convention in Minneapolis.



*The NFCRV plays an important role in ensuring the future of religious life and in spreading the happiness and joy found in new vocations. To all of our sponsors and donors, we say thank you for your generosity and vision!*

*To learn more about the NFCRV, visit our website at [vocationfund.org](http://vocationfund.org).*

*To donate, please contact NFCRV Executive Director Phil Loftus at **312-318-0180** or email him at [ploftus@nfcrv.org](mailto:ploftus@nfcrv.org).*



*Established by the National Religious Vocation Conference*

---

5416 SOUTH CORNELL AVENUE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60615 | 312-318-0180