

# National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations

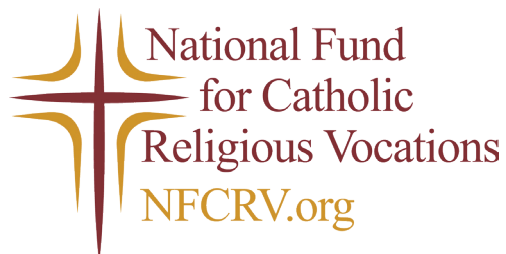
VOCATIONFUND.ORG



**DECADE OF PROMISE CLUB**

Supporting Catholic Religious Vocations

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT





## COMMUNITIES SERVED

### 2021

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

Salesians of Don Bosco,  
New Rochelle, NY  
Sisters of Christian Charity,  
Mendham, NJ

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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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

### 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 Monk  
and Priest, 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

### Members

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Sacred Heart, Province of the United States

Keith Armato, President, Union Tin Company.

Len Uhal, National Vocation Director, Society of the Divine  
Word, NRVC Board Representative

*Executive Director* PHIL LOFTUS

### *Emeritus Members*

BROTHER PAUL BEDNARCYK, C.S.C. | SISTER LOIS WETZEL,  
O.C.A.R.M. | ROBERT FALLON | CARMELITA LINDEN | FATHER CHARLES  
SHELBY, C.M. | MARK J. TERESI



## LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE, I am amazed by how many want to make a difference and desire to belong to something faith-based and bigger than themselves. Often, I find myself thinking, “They show a lot of promise.” No more so do these hopeful thoughts come to mind than when I pick up the ever-growing list of Vocation Fund grantee religious institutes and candidates that sits on the small table in my monastery cell next to the place where I pray. The names on this prayer list remind me daily of those we—and you through your prayerful and financial support of our mission—help to make a difference in our Church and world.



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

These future (and some now professed) religious sisters, brothers, and priests are having a transformative impact, as they devote themselves “to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers” (Acts 2:42). Their desire to enter religious life and continue the life-changing work of their religious institutes fills me with a sense of gratitude and confidence that the Spirit continues to be at work in our lives.

In 2021, the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations launched the Decade of Promise campaign to share this message of hope to others. We have been inspired and humbled by the response. By accepting the invitation to support our work for \$100 a year for 10 years, our generous benefactors and friends are helping to remove the obstacle of educational debt so that a new generation of men and women can answer God’s call to vowed life. We continue to invite others to be part of the Decade of Promise. And we look to you to spread the word about the Vocation Fund.

We are grateful to all of you who help strengthen and sustain our mission—our founding sponsors and benefactors, including the Brach Foundation, the National Council of Catholic Women, and the charter members of the Decade of Promise—for your continued support. As reflected in this year’s annual report, we are committed to being 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.

We have been  
inspired and  
humbled by  
the response  
to our Decade  
of Promise  
campaign.

We are also honored to serve a diverse cross-section of Catholic religious communities that define the landscape of religious life today. Formed over the centuries to meet spiritual and corporal needs, religious communities continue to welcome new members responding to God’s call. And God’s divine plan continues to unfold in the charisms of this great cloud of witnesses who joyfully share in the works of mercy to reveal the love of Christ to all in need.

Please join me in praying for vocations in the Church and for families to be open to the grace to foster vocations so the promise of Christ’s presence among us may be experienced in celebrating the Word of God, receiving the sacraments, and sharing in the ministry of charity. My promise is to continue to remember you and the intentions closest to your heart in prayer. I invite you to pray for God’s Providence as we continue to bring our mission to light so that others may join in this great cloud of witnesses.

In Christ, I am,



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



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OVERVIEW

HOW WONDERFUL to be able to continue to share good news via our 2021 Annual Report. We are so grateful for the successful launch of the NFCRV Decade of Promise Club. Thank you to all of our donors who have responded so generously to our initial ask in year one of the campaign and to all those who have made future pledges.

We continue to respond to the need of helping younger religious with their educational debt and help build awareness of the need.

I recently read about Bishop Edward Malesic from the Cleveland diocese who had celebrated Mass for religious jubilarians and members of their communities in the Diocese of Cleveland. It made me think of the young people we are helping and where they may be in their ministry work in 20 plus or more years. As Bishop Malesic noted:



NFCRV Executive  
Director Phil Loftus.

Each young person  
we help is a living  
stone willing to  
dedicate their  
lives to building up  
the kingdom in so  
many beautiful and  
vital ways.

*I am taken by the thought that the Church is made up of living stones, each sharing different gifts that the Lord uses to build up his mystical body on earth.*

*I cannot say enough about how much I admire the work that you and your religious communities do. You educate our youth, heal the sick, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the lonely and despairing, free the oppressed, advocate for justice, and remind us of our responsibilities as stewards of planet earth—doing all this and even more with love and kindness —always reflecting the face of Christ to God’s children. But again, it is by pointing the way to Jesus that makes your way of consecrated life essential for the good of the Church.*

Each young person we help is a living stone, grounded in their faith and their call to consecrated life, who are willing to dedicate their lives to building up the kingdom in so many beautiful and vital ways. I am so pleased that the Vocation Fund is able to assist men and women answer their call to religious life.

Thank you to all of our donors, past, present and future. You provide much needed help in bringing forth more vocations through support of our mission to alleviate the burden of educational debt. Blessings for your continued health.

With you on the journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil R. Loftus".

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



# 2021 HIGHLIGHTS AND INITIATIVES

## NFCRV 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 us establish the fund for the benefit of NRVC member institutes. Since its inception, the NFCRV has granted \$980,317 toward the educational debt of approximately 49 candidates to religious life. All of this is done through the generosity of our supporters and benefactors. NRVC continues to seek new sources of funding to maintain a sustainable financial model.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF  
CATHOLIC WOMEN®

HELEN BRACH FOUNDATION

## PLANNED GIVING

Planned Giving that includes NFCRV is another way to keep your legacy alive. In 2021 we lost a dear benefactor, Richard Gabriel. Although Rich is gone, we were fortunate to have him include NFCRV in his Trust plans. We are extremely grateful for his generous spirit and his life. To find out more about how you might be able to include NFCRV in your planned-giving strategy, please contact Executive Director Phil Loftus.

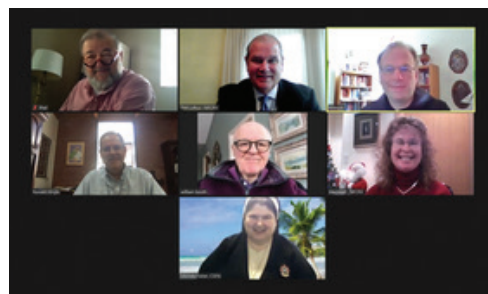


## NFCRV ESTABLISHES THE DECADE OF PROMISE CLUB

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. By year's end we had raised \$10,660 in collected funds and \$7,650 in pledged funds for a total of \$18,310. Our hope is to raise more than \$100,000 over the next 10 years 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 & CONFERENCES

- The NFCRV Board met via zoom for their January and June Board Meetings. In June they determined the 2021 grantees and conducted other Fund business, including reviewing investments and plans for future fundraising. We are grateful to our Board for their time and talent in helping 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 from new vocation directors about the Vocation Fund.
- In August Phil Loftus attended the 2021 Conference of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) in Washington, D.C. Phil had one simple message for the 500+ council members gathered there: Thank you! NCCW has collected over \$110,000 in support of the Vocation Fund.



Top: NFCRV June Board meeting. Bottom: Executive Director Phil Loftus with NCCW President Jean Kelly





## FINANCES

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

PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES, & GAINS	Without donor restriction	With donor restriction	TOTAL
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>			
	128,326		128,326
Program	34,213		34,213
Management and general	162,539		162,539
TOTAL EXPENSES			
<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

### NFCRV STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES, YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2020

PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES, & GAINS	Without donor restriction	With donor restriction	TOTAL
Contributions and grants	\$ 35,422		\$ 35,422
In kind donations			
Investment return, net	614,855		614,815
TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS	\$650,227		\$ 650,227
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
	127,185		127,185
Program	33,209		33,209
Management and general	160,394		160,394
TOTAL EXPENSES			
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	489,883		489,883
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,167,195		\$2,167,195
END OF YEAR	\$2,657,078		\$2,657,078



## MEET OUR NEWEST GRANTEE CANDIDATES

*Since its inception NFCRV grants have enabled 49 candidates to discern their call free from the worry of student loan payments  
We are grateful to have played a part in seeing their vocation dreams realized.*



### DOROTHY HERRING

BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF MT. ST.  
SCHOLASTICA, ATCHISON, KS  
*Atchison, KS*

#### **What I love about the Catholic Church**

I love that the Catholic Church is universal and that the mass is the same, even when the language is different. This has provided a comfort for me when I have traveled as I am surrounded by people sharing the same beliefs, traditions, and love of Christ, even if we do not speak the same language.

### ROSE RUCOBA

MARIANIST SISTERS  
*St. Louis, MO*

#### **Why I chose my religious institute**

Mary's influence was definitely palpable as soon as you walked onto the Marianist's University of Dayton campus, where I went to college. I loved that and so instantly I was drawn to the Marianists even before I met the sisters. As I learned more about the Marianists, I was also very interested in the fact that with the Marianists there was room for people to follow their own unique calling. But "becoming a religious" is a whole other matter. I have to be conscious of who I am and what I am representing every waking moment. And pray relentlessly for the grace and strength to do so!



### PAMELA ROSE SURESCA

SALESIAN SISTERS (DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS) *Haledon, NJ*

#### **How I hope to make a difference**

I pray that my relationship with Jesus continues to grow deeper and deeper so as to serve His people as the hands and feet of Christ. I pray that the young people encounter Christ when they encounter me and therefore realize their great dignity and worth. I pray that I may be an effective and joyful teacher so that all young people going through formation in preparation for their Sacraments do so with great fervor and understanding.



### MEGAN CHRIST

TOTUS TUUS *Pittsburgh, PA*

#### **What I'd say to others considering a religious vocation**

God is so simple! We are the complicated ones but everything from God is in freedom and love. Christ will never force Himself upon us. His love is so gentle and He thirsts for our trust in Him!

### RYAN RICHTER

MARIST BROTHERS *Forrest Hills, NY*

#### **How my education helped me in my ministry**

By learning about different cultures and backgrounds I will better be able to meet my students and others who I minister to where they are and with more empathy.



### HIEN NGUYEN

DOMINICAN SISTERS  
OF MARY IMMACULATE PROVINCE *Houston, TX*

#### **What I'd like to say to benefactors**

Thank you all for your support. You are creating a realistic hope for others to follow their callings. With this grant, I am more at ease to continue my application to the convent. And I could not be more happy and feel blessed.



### CATHERINE BIER

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART  
*Hudson, WI*

#### **What I like to say to Vocation Fund benefactors**

I am so deeply grateful to all who support the National Fund for Religious Vocations for making all this possible for me and others to follow God's call.



*Find more grantee candidates' vocation stories at [nfcrv.org/stories](http://nfcrv.org/stories).  
Please pray for all of NFCRV grantee communities and candidates discerning a religious vocation..*



## 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.
- The Fund awards 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.

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*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*

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