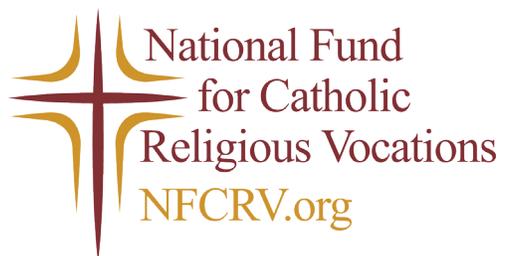




*Dedicated to reducing the obstacle of educational debt for those on the pathway to religious vocations.*



2 0 2 0  
ANNUAL  
REPORT

## COMMUNITIES SERVED

### 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  
& 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  
Salesian Sisters, Daughters  
of Mary Help of Christians  
Dominican Sisters of Peace  
Felician Sisters of North  
America, Beaver Falls, PA  
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  
and Major Gifts Officer (retired),  
Archdiocese of Chicago

### Members

BROTHER RONALD HINGLE, S.C., Provincial of the Brothers  
of the Sacred Heart, Province of the United States

Keith Armato, President, Union Tin Company.

Sister Kristin Matthes, SNDdeN, NRVC Board Chair

*Executive Director* PHIL LOFTUS

### Emeritus Members

BROTHER PAUL BEDNARCZYK, C.S.C., ROBERT FALLON,  
CARMELITA LINDEN, FATHER CHARLES SHELBY, C.M.,  
MARK J. TERESI, SISTER LOIS WETZEL, O.CARM.



## LETTER FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF: I am a native of northwest Iowa steeped in the tradition and culture of Catholic rural life. I was formed by the women religious of Dubuque, including the B.V.M. and Presentation sisters, and diocesan priests. I had an inkling of wanting to be a priest since third grade, but it wasn't until college, where I earned a degree in public relations from Missouri State University, that I was introduced to the Benedictines of Conception Abbey and then discerned diocesan priesthood. My bishop sent me to Saint Meinrad Seminary in Indiana to study. I ended up falling in love with the place and monastic community, made solemn monastic profession in 2004 and was ordained a Benedictine priest in 2005. I have since earned a Master's in Catholic Thought and Life and a Master of Divinity, both from Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology.



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

Although I was blessed not to have educational debt, I quickly learned of the challenge it poses to religious life when I served as Board Chair of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) as they conducted their landmark study on educational debt in 2012. During my tenure on the NRVC board, we established the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations (NFCRV) to address the obstacle of student debt to religious life. I then had the privilege of serving on the NFCRV board since its inception.

I have a deep appreciation for women and men religious and all that they offer the church. We need their vocations. Over the years, I have served as a formator at the seminary, vocations director for my community, and director of Youth and Young Adult Formation at the school of theology. Presently, I am pastor of St. Boniface Parish and St. Meinrad Parish near the monastery, chaplain at a Xaverian-sponsored school in Louisville, and NFCRV Board Chair for the past year. I have seen first-hand the need for sisters, brothers, and priests and the charism of their religious institutes.

We have found  
that a deferred  
vocation can  
easily become a  
lost vocation.

Because religious communities cannot accept a candidate who is not free to embrace the vow of poverty, candidates wait to enter while they pay off their student loans. And that is a disappointment for the candidate and the community. We have found that a deferred vocation can easily become a lost vocation. That is why we established the vocation fund, which in a few short years has served more than 30 religious communities and their candidates with educational debt.

We are grateful to our founding sponsors and our faithful benefactors, including the Helen Brach Foundation and the National Council of Catholic Women. As you will see in this report, we are good stewards with the gifts we have received to fulfill NFCRV's mission.

The community of the faithful—all of us working and supporting one another—is essential to the life of knowing, loving and seeking Christ in the church and the fostering of religious vocations. Thank you for being there for us and with us.

In Christ, I am

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Father Anthony, O.S.B." The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OVERVIEW

IN LOOKING BACK ON 2020 no one could have imagined the impact COVID 19 would have on our lives. The pandemic hit our global neighbors first and since my daughter was studying in Italy I was using that lens to gauge the impact and devastation never thinking back in February that this was just the start.

Fast forward through the year as we isolated, prayed, masked and lived a virtual life.

What are you watching, reading, cooking or learning? We all tried to do what was best to stay safe knowing many lives of family, friends and neighbors were being devastated and cut short by the impact of the virus.

I kept returning to the thought that all things have a beginning—good things as well as bad. Five years ago, in 2015, NFCRV first began to help young religious life discerners with their educational debt through our grants to religious institutes.

During a Zoom presentation to new vocation directors at the National Religious Vocation Conference's 2020 Summer Institute, I received a vivid, real-time reminder of our vocation fund's positive impact. As I was speaking, Adrian Dominican Sister Katherine Frasier

I received a vivid, real-time reminder of our vocation fund's positive impact.

O.P., gave testimony in the chat about how NFCRV helped her. "If it weren't for the educational grant," she said, "I wouldn't be here." Because of NFCRV, Sister Katherine did not have to defer her vocation until her student loans were paid off. Her community, the students at the Catholic school where she teaches, and the new discerners she now accompanies as a vocation director have all benefited from Sister Katherine's ability to enter religious life five years ago, instead of 5 years from now when her student loans are paid off.

Sister Katherine was in our first class of grantees in 2015. It all comes full circle thanks to the generosity of donors who support our mission to eradicate the obstacle of student debt to Catholic religious vocations.

Despite a slight drop in donations due to the pandemic, we were still able to answer the call of all those who sought a grant in 2020. For this we are extremely grateful.

On behalf of our NFCRV Board and all of our grantees I thank all of our donors, supporters, and well wishers. Here's hoping that 2021 brings us health and prosperity for the greater glory of God.



NFCRV Executive Director Phil Loftus

With you on the journey.

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

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

# 2020 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 \$937,567 toward the educational debt of approximately 47 candidates to religious life. All of this is done through the generosity of our supporters and benefactors. The NFCRV continues to seek new sources of funding to maintain a sustainable financial model.



HELEN BRACH FOUNDATION

## MEETINGS, CONFERENCES & CONTINUING EDUCATION

- On Jan. 23, 2020, NFCRV Executive Director Phil Loftus joined *VISION Vocation Guide* publisher Patrice Tuohy to discuss “Growing religious vocations throughout the U.S.” on Chicago Archdiocese Radio with host and former NFCRV Director Mark Teresi.

- The NFCRV board held its annual meeting virtually on June 9, 2020 where they determined 2020 Grantees and conducted other fund business, including updates and reviewing investments. Learn more about our grantee communities and their candidates at [nfcrv.org/stories](https://nfcrv.org/stories).

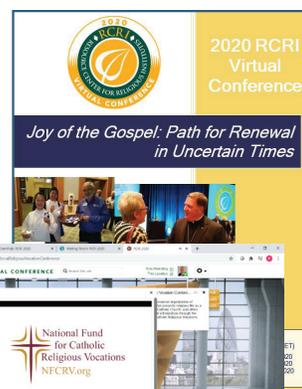
- Also in June, Phil Loftus attended the online seminar “DAF 101: How to unlock \$120 billion in hidden funding,” which provided information about Donor-Advised Funds (DAF).

- In July, Phil presented at the National Religious Vocation Conference’s Summer Institute and answered questions from new vocation directors about the Fund.

- NFCRV welcomed visitors to a virtual booth at the online 2020 conference of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI) held over three Fridays from Oct. 23–Nov. 6, 2020.

- NFCRV grantees Sister Ana Gonzales, O.P., Sister Katherine Frazier, O.P., and Sister Mary Amata Reifsnnyder, S.C.C., were featured in videos on hope at the 2020 virtual Convocation for the National Religious Vocation Conference, which NFCRV staff attended in October. Find the entire Abundant Hope Playlist here: <https://tinyurl.com/wh5z37fu>

- NFCRV Board Chair Father Anthony Vinson, O.S.B. and Executive Director Phil Loftus completed the six-week Lilly Family School of Philanthropy course on Principles and Techniques of Fundraising, which helped each fine tune their fundraising strategies. Phil received a Dottie Rosso Scholarship to attend, providing a 50% reduction in fees.



NFCRV virtual booth at the 2020 RCRI conference.

## GRANT APPLICATIONS FOR 2021 & GRANTEE ANNUAL REPORTS

Applications for 2021 will be accepted from Jan. 4 through April 19, 2021. Apply online at [vocationfund.org/application](https://vocationfund.org/application). Annual reports from grantees are due June 30th of each year. Complete reports online at [vocationfund.org/institute-annual-report](https://vocationfund.org/institute-annual-report).

# FINANCES

## 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	-	614,855
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS</b>	<b>\$650,277</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 650,227</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program	127,185	-	127,185
Management and general	33,209	-	33,209
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>160,394</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>160,394</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>489,883</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>489,883</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$2,167,195	-	\$2,167,195
END OF YEAR	\$2,657,078	-	\$2,657,078

## NFCRV STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES, YEAR ENDING DEC. 31, 2019

PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES, & GAINS	Without donor restriction	With donor restriction	TOTAL
Contributions and grants	\$ 56,247	-	\$ 56,247
In kind donations	1,924	-	1,924
Investment return, net	489,010	-	489,010
<b>TOTAL PUBLIC SUPPORT, REVENUES AND GAINS</b>	<b>\$ 547,181</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 547,181</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Program	164,997	-	164,997
Management and general	31,973	-	31,973
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 196,970</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 196,970</b>
<b>CHANGE IN NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 350,211</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 350,211</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			
BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$1,816,984	-	\$1,816,984
END OF YEAR	\$2,167,195	-	\$2,167,195



# MEET OUR NEWEST GRANTEE CANDIDATES

*In 2020 six religious institutes were awarded educational debt relief through the National Fund for Catholic Religious Vocations. Since its inception NFCRV grants have enabled 33 candidates to discern their call free from the worry of student loan payments.*

## PAMELA ROSE SURESCA

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



### What surprised me most about religious life

St. Francis De Sales says: "Be who you are and be that well, in order to honor the Master craftsman whose handiwork you are." This statement rings true for the Salesian Sisters. One of the greatest surprises in religious life, specifically the Salesians, is that each sister is SOOOO different, quirky, talented, and unique. I think I came into this seeing and witnessing many religious sisters who all seemed so similar in how they talked, prayed, and acted. In my time with the Salesians I have noticed that each sister is fully alive and fully herself while still living out the Salesian Spirit.

## RYAN RICHTER

MARIST BROTHERS Forrest Hills, NY



### My Vocation Story

Right after I graduated from college, but before I began my professional career, I went on a vocation pilgrimage to visit several religious communities. Seeing these people living to love and serve all God's children with such purpose and intentionality made me realize the fulfillment I was seeking wasn't in money or fancy job titles, but in living my everyday life as the closest imitation to Jesus Christ as I could. And, for me, that's the Brothers.



## CATHERINE BIER

CARMEL OF THE SACRED HEART  
Hudson, WI

### What I love about the Catholic Church

Everything! Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament tops my list (melts the stress off) along with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

### My vocation aspiration

To grow closer to God and others through love, prayer and Carmelite spirituality, through all aspects of community life.

## MEGAN CHRIST

TOTUS TUUS Pittsburgh, PA

### How my education will help me in my ministry

My background in psychology gives me an open-minded awe in how uniquely God crafts each one of us, especially our minds. I hope to teach adolescents how to integrate faith into their intellect, will, and emotions. Studying studio art allowed me to learn that I can connect to God with each of my senses. This knowledge helps me to teach the young women I work with how to pray.



## 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.

### A favorite teacher

My favorite teacher is Mr. Wilson. He taught me English when I first came to America. He made me feel like I am smart and important. I enjoyed school more because of him.

*Find more grantee candidates' vocation stories at [nfcrv.org/stories](https://nfcrv.org/stories).*

## 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.

NFCRV hopes to advance its mission by:

- Assisting congregations, provinces, religious communities and secular institutes in developing policies and resources to actively consider a candidate who has educational debt.
- Aiding the congregations, provinces, religious communities and secular institutes so that they may conditionally accept candidates who have educational debt.
- Inviting religious communities, secular institutes, corporations and foundations to support the fund's mission.
- Assist individuals in planned giving and major gifts program to continue the vital legacy of religious life in the Church and in the world.

### PROVISO

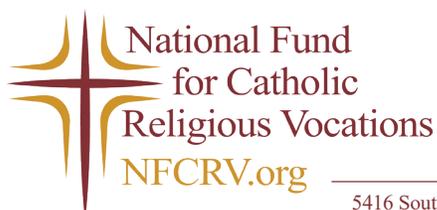
The Fund awards grants based on need. Any canonically recognized religious institute with membership in the National Religious Vocation Conference may apply for a grant to service a candidate's educational debt during formation.

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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*

5416 South Cornell Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60615-5604 | 312-318-0180 | [VocationFund.org](http://VocationFund.org)