

Retirement Fund for Religious

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News

Persistent Challenges: Planning for the Year Ahead

In this Issue

NRRO 2020 Calendar

In November 1994, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO), the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, and the former National Association for Treasurers of Religious Institutes sponsored a think tank to explore issues related to ongoing viability among religious institutes. One of the many fruits of this gathering was a document called *A Critical Juncture: Assessing the Viability of Religious Institutes*. Among other areas, the document details impediments to mission, ministry, and membership that can impact the long-term ability of a religious institute to sustain itself.

I often find myself reflecting on these obstacles—which include everything from insufficient savings to a dwindling number of members able to participate in leadership—and how they remain a persistent concern for countless religious institutes. At the NRRO, we frequently see today’s leaders struggle with the same issues that challenged their predecessors. In response, we strive to provide financial assistance and educational programming that can inspire new solutions to old problems, especially as they relate to retirement planning and eldercare delivery.

As a former congregational leader, I understand that one of the greatest challenges to viability is simply finding the time and space to plan. Most days are spent attending to immediate concerns, and few hours are left to prepare for the needs to come. With this in mind, the following pages provide an overview of the NRRO’s financial and educational offerings for 2020. Whether you have one day to spare or just one hour, our hope is that the calendar will enable you to plan ahead so you can take advantage of these opportunities. We are here to support and assist you!

God bless,

Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM
Executive Director



National Religious Retirement Office 2020 Calendar

January

2 **Direct Care Assistance**
 Direct Care Assistance information was sent to all religious institutes registered in the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) database, and applications are available at uscgb.org/nrro. Submission of this application is the doorway to NRRO funding, educational programming, and consultative services.

February

11 **Webinar**
 The NRRO and the Avila Institute of Gerontology kick off our annual webinar series with *The Spiritual Journey of Caregiving: Finding Compassion for Ourselves and Others*. As with all webinars, this presentation is free for religious institutes. Learn more at uscgb.org/nrro.

Join us for a FREE informative webinar.*

The Spiritual Journey of Caregiving: Finding Compassion for Ourselves and Others

DATE/TIME:
 February 11, 2020
 1:00 - 2:00 PM (ET)

REGISTRATION:
 Go to www.usccb.org/nrro to register for this webinar.
 *This webinar is FREE for NRRO members only.

Direct Care Assistants are included in the NRRO database. All other members are not.

Meet the Presenter:
Debra Rose, MEd, MCC-POMC
 Debra currently serves as the Executive Director of the Support for Caregivers. She is a member of several national and international organizations across the U.S., committed to the well-being of caregivers and the spiritual care of the elderly. Debra shares the C.A. community's role in providing support and organizational leadership. She is also a former spiritual director, a certified hospice volunteer, and a graduate care chaplain. She is happily married with two amazing adult children.

Free NRRO webinars are archived and available for FREE at www.usccb.org/nrro. Free webinar recordings.

24-27 **New Workshop**
 Join us for our newest workshop, *A Gifted Journey: Accompanying a Person Through the Dying Experience*, at the Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center in Marriottsville, Maryland. Discover information and practical skills for accompanying someone through the end of his or her life. To learn more and to register, download our workshop brochure under Resources at uscgb.org/nrro. Hurry! Registration closes January 31.

A Gifted Journey:
 Accompanying a Person Through the Dying Experience

February 24 – 27, 2020
 Bon Secours Retreat Center
 Marriottsville, MD

March

2-4 **New-Leader Workshops**
26-29 NRRO Executive Director Sister Stephanie Still, PBVM, offers presentations at the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) workshops for new congregational leaders. Hope to see you there.



31 **Direct Care Assistance Applications Due**
 Whether or not your community applies for financial assistance, you are urged to complete and return the Direct Care Assistance application. Your community's information helps the NRRO develop a more comprehensive assessment of retirement funding and needs nationally. It also furthers the NRRO's collaboration with other organizations that support religious life.

April

Catch up on educational opportunities you may have missed. Check out archived webinars at retiredreligious.org/webinars/ and previous publications at uscgb.org/nrro.

May

19 **Webinar (Topic: TBD)**
 Webinars take place at 1:00 p.m. ET and last 60 minutes. Set aside an hour to focus on issues that will help your institute enhance eldercare delivery and enrich the lives of your seniors.

20 Retirement Needs Analyses Mailed

June

30 **Direct Care Assistance Distributions Made by the End of the Month**

National Religious Retirement Office 2020 Calendar, continued

July

6-9 Workshop
 Take advantage of an encore presentation of our February workshop, *A Gifted Journey: Accompanying a Person Through the Dying Experience*, at the Carmelite Spiritual Center in Darien, Illinois.



August

4-6 CMSM National Assembly

11 Webinar (Topic: TBD)

11-14 LCWR Assembly
 Be sure to stop by the NRRO booth at the CMSM and LCWR assemblies. We look forward to meeting you!



September

28-10/1 NRRO Eldercare Presentations

Once again, the NRRO is offering a series of eldercare and retirement-planning sessions during the Resource Center for Religious



Institutes National Conference, which is taking place in St. Louis, Missouri. Plan now to attend.

November

10 Webinar (Topic: TBD)

13 NRRO Accountability Report to CRLM
 The Commission on Religious Life and Ministry (CRLM) establishes guidelines and criteria for the NRRO and comprises the bishop chairperson and staff of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations and the executive directors and elected leadership of the CMSM, LCWR, and CMSWR (Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious). The NRRO's report encompasses all administrative and financial activities related to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection.

30 Management and Continuing Education Assistance Application Deadline

December

13 Retirement Fund for Religious National Collection

Please give it your vocal and prayerful support.

How Can We Help?

If you have questions or need help with the Direct Care Assistance application, please contact NRRO Grants Specialist Monica Glover, mglover@usccb.org or (202) 541-3216.



Do you have an idea for a webinar or a suggestion for an eldercare topic to be addressed? Contact NRRO Education and Outreach Manager Sister Georgette Lehmuth, OSF, glehmuth@usccb.org or (202) 541-3218.



Management and Continuing Education Assistance provides distributions of up to \$5,000 to support the acquisition of basic management tools and to underwrite the ongoing education and training of key personnel. Contact NRRO Program Associate Karen Cañas, kcanas@usccb.org or (202) 541-3215.





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Sponsor of the Retirement Fund for Religious

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Stay Connected

Please send changes in address, phone, email, or congregational leadership to the NRRO, c/o Karen Cañas (kcanas@usccb.org), so that we may keep our records and mailing lists updated.

The National Religious Retirement Office coordinates the national collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious and distributes these funds to eligible religious institutes for their retirement needs. Our mission is to support, educate, and assist religious institutes in the United States to embrace their current retirement realities and to plan for the future.

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