

Retirement Fund for Religious

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News

Get Ready! New Property-Planning Workshop Coming Spring 2016

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The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) is pleased to announce a new workshop as part of the Tending the Vineyard initiative. Funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Tending the Vineyard is a three-year effort by the NRRO to disseminate education and programming to promote effective property planning among religious institutes. For numerous institutes, management and/or divestment of congregational properties remains one of the most pressing challenges to adequately funding retirement. The workshop, which will be offered three times in 2016, will furnish information, training, and resources to support communities in addressing complex property-related issues.

The workshop has been several months in the making and is being overseen by Marianist Brother Stephen Glodek, project director for Tending the Vineyard. Brother Stephen began by reviewing the materials and resources on property planning that are currently available. He then convened two focus groups to provide input on the content and format of the workshops. Participants included NRRO consultants

TENDING THE VINEYARD Stewardship of Religious Property



Focus group participants brainstorm topics and format for the property-planning workshop.

Above: Project Director Stephen Glodek, SM
Right: Participants Sister Marilyn Ketteler (left), OSF, and Sister Joyce Langhals, CPPS



New Property-Planning Workshop (*continued*)

and representatives from religious institutes with previous property-related experience. These individuals offered insight and feedback in areas such as internal communications, financial and strategic planning, leadership, pastoral care, and working with lay professionals and consultants.

The workshop is targeted for religious communities already involved in property planning and those for whom property-related decisions are imminent. Participants will focus on identifying key facets of the planning process and how to shepherd a project to its conclusion. Further, they will explore how to respect the spiritual and sustainable aspects of property and land and how effective planning promotes ongoing mission and viability. Multiple break-out sessions will offer support for specific concerns, such as conflict resolution and budgeting for multi-year projects.

Scheduled for March 13–16, 2016, in Baltimore, the initial pilot workshop will invite participants to share their feedback on the content and structure of the gathering. This information will help shape the two remaining workshops, which will be held later in 2016.

Retirement Fund for Religious National Collection, December 12–13

Please help us raise awareness about the ongoing retirement needs of senior religious. Consider speaking at Mass and/or writing local pastors to express support of the collection. Most importantly, please join in praying for the success of the 2016 appeal and for the intentions of our generous donors.



Please give to those who have given a lifetime.
www.retiredreligious.org



Workshop Q & A

1. Who should attend?

Participants may include leadership, staff members, and/or planning committee members presently engaged in a congregational property initiative or those who plan to undertake such a project in the near future. A maximum of three participants per congregation can be covered by the NRRO grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

2. How much will it cost?

Food, lodging, and workshop fees are all funded by the Hilton Foundation grant. Participants must cover travel expenses.

3. There is no money in our budget for travel.

What can we do?

Travel support may be available through an NRRO Management and Continuing Education Assistance Award. For eligibility requirements, visit <http://usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/management-and-continuing-education-assistance.cfm>.

4. How long will it last?

The workshop will last two full days, March 14–15, beginning with opening prayer at 9:00 a.m. each day and concluding by about 7:30 p.m. the second evening. Accommodations are available for the nights of March 13, 14, and 15. Breakfast will be served before departure on the morning of March 16.

5. How do I register?

Registration details and links will be distributed via an *NRRO E-Bulletin* in the near future. In the meantime, questions can be directed to Brother Stephen Glodek, smglodek2020@gmail.com.

Stay Connected

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

Message from the Executive Director

You may have noticed that our office has devoted significant time, energy, and resources to the issue of property planning for religious institutes. Our emphasis on this topic—and the reason we chose it as a primary focus when applying for funding from the Hilton Foundation—reflects its pervasiveness as an impediment to adequately funding retirement. Religious institutes of every kind and size face the dilemma of what to do with outdated properties that strain congregational budgets and no longer serve the needs of members.

The challenge with property planning is that it requires complex decision making on numerous fronts: architectural, legal, zoning, relocation, pastoral support, budgeting, and more. Members of religious congregations tasked with managing these monumental projects often have backgrounds in education, health care, social advocacy, or pastoral support. Yet they must quickly become conversant in the working language of contractors, benefits administrators, and accountants.

A primary function of the volunteer consultants in our Planning and Implementation Assistance program is to help participants determine exactly what types of

professional expertise are needed. Consultants also provide guidance on obtaining this assistance and evaluating the options presented. Tending the Vineyard is an effort to extend our reach beyond the support we are able to provide through Planning and Implementation Assistance.



The Retirement Fund for Religious collection is slated to end in 2017. Although we will be making the case to renew the annual appeal, our goal is to help as many communities as possible develop strategies for addressing property-related issues—not to mention other types of funding challenges—before the current collection ends.

As we approach the 28th national Retirement Fund for Religious collection on December 12–13, I ask for your support and for your continued prayers for our donors across the country. In the end, nothing we do would be possible without the generosity and sacrifice of countless Catholics who “give to those who have given a lifetime.”

May our loving God bless them and you abundantly!

Sister Janice Bader, CPPS
Executive Director

NRRO Calendar

December

12–13 Retirement Fund for Religious National Collection

14–17 CMSM New Leaders' Workshop, Washington, DC

January 2016

4 Direct Care Assistance Applications mailed

13 NRRO Assistance Review Committee meeting

18 NRRO Management Committee meeting

24–28 Informational meetings on Planning and Implementation Assistance, San Antonio, TX

February

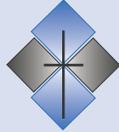
16 NRRO Webinar, Topic TBD

March

13–16 Tending the Vineyard (property-planning) workshop, Baltimore, MD
(See schedule details, page 2.)



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— 2015 Year of Consecrated Life —



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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 U.S. to embrace their current retirement realities and to plan for the future.

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