



## NALM NEWS AND NOTES April 2016

Welcome to the April edition of the NALM News and Notes, the monthly communication tool of the National Association for Lay Ministry. Every month you will receive a blog-style newsletter, highlighting information that we hope will be useful to you as a lay minister.

### A Message from the Chair — Carol Walters

March Madness has arrived! These college basketball games had a little bit of everything—the exhilaration on one team that comes from hitting a last second game-winning shot and the despair on the other team when that shot is made. So much emotion is packed into the tournament. My husband and I watched many of the games. Unfortunately, his alma mater, the University of Missouri, isn't in the "big dance." While we miss watching "his team," it does make it much easier for me to fill in my brackets because I am not tracking Mizzou through to the championship game. Alas, this year will be another victory for ABK—anyone but Kansas! (The Mizzou-Kansas rivalry runs very deep in our household.)

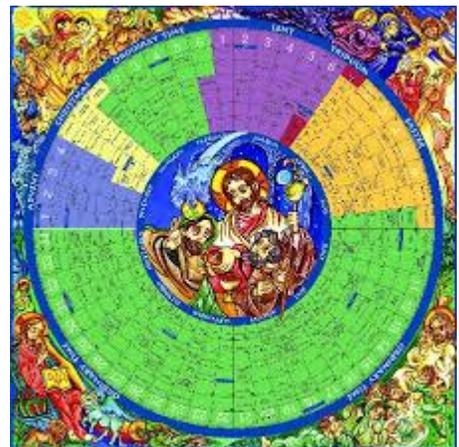


And, March Madness also means that NALM's "big dance"—the 2016 Conference is just around the corner. We have some fabulous pre-conference events lined up for you. The conference will also feature great keynoters who will take us to new heights as we kick off our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. The NALM web site has detailed information about the speakers and registration. I am looking forward to seeing you there. Let's dance!

*Carol*

### Liturgical Calendar for April

- 3 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER
- 4 ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD
- 5 Saint Vincent Ferrer
- 7 Saint John Baptist de la Salle
- 10 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER
- 11 Saint Stanislaus
- 13 Saint Martin I
- 17 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER
- 21 Saint Anselm
- 23 Saint George & St. Adalbert
- 24 5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER
- 25 Saint Mark the Evangelist
- 28 Saint Peter Chanel & Saint Louis Grignion de Montfort
- 29 Saint Catherine of Siena
- 30 Saint Pius V



## NALM Membership Committee

The NALM Membership Committee exists to increase membership in our association and enhance the experience of members. In recent years, the Membership Committee has concentrated on several initiatives:

- With the transition of NALM to a board-led organization and the move of the national offices from Washington, DC, to Chicago, the Membership Committee has spent the last two years reviewing our membership records to make sure we have an accurate reflection of paid members, moving non-paid members to inactive status in a timely manner.
- We've re-structured membership categories and rates to include:
  - Sustaining Member: \$195
  - Regular Membership: \$95
  - Affiliate Member: \$65 (member of an affiliated Diocese, National Organization or an affiliated Local or Regional Ministerial Association)
  - Student/Retired/Limited Income Member: \$35 (new lower rate for retired/limited income)
- In addition, we've established a new Diocesan Membership category.
- You probably noticed that membership renewal notices are now sent out on a quarterly basis, rather than on the member's anniversary date as in the past. This makes it easier to administer membership renewals. In addition, Diocesan and Organization renewal notices are now sent in a similar fashion.

In regards to membership experience, the most significant initiative has been the establishment of NALM Regional Representatives. These representatives will enhance communication within regions, as well as promote more regional activities for members.

We are always looking for new members of the Membership Committee. The committee meets monthly via Go ToMeeting. If you feel called to serve on this committee or have questions about its work, please contact Mark Hoggard ([mhoggard@sttheresechesva.org](mailto:mhoggard@sttheresechesva.org); 757 488-2553m ext. 309).

## NALM Advocacy Committee: Advocating as Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord

Dawn Rusinko, OFS, CLEM



Advocacy invited Fr. Allan F. Deck S.J. to lead our Parish Life Leaders & Business Managers Institute for the June conference in Albuquerque. He has experience and expertise in developing the Intercultural Competencies for the USCCB. We are excited to offer this valuable opportunity to increase cultural awareness in our Christian communities. In the next 15 years, many changes in our parishes will be taking place and cultural diversity will be an important issue facing lay ministers. Fr. Allan's wisdom and understanding of cultures will give

lay ministers the necessary skills and methods for Intercultural competency so they can tackle these issues with respect and integrity.

## NALM Advocacy Committee (continued)

Zeni Fox, a member of our committee and other long time NALM members, have put together a brief history and timeline of NALM. The idea was conceived as part of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to increase awareness and appreciation for NALM. This information will be used in a commemorative booklet that will be made available to the members at the conclusion of our 40<sup>th</sup> year in 2017. Our committee is in the process of collating the pieces into a draft to present to the Board for approval.

We are also reviewing the material from the Bishop's Lay Ecclesial Ministry Summit and concluded that the bishops and speakers demonstrated sincerity and genuine concern for the state of lay ministry now and into the future. We found this very encouraging and will be using this resource for future Advocacy tasks.

The Advocacy Committee is always looking for additional members to share their perspectives and insights. If NALM's Advocacy Committee is a right fit for you, please contact Carol Walters or one of the other NALM Board members.

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: ROVING REPORTERS

As part of the celebration of **NALM at 40** and introduced at Conference 2015 last May, twenty-seven people took part in this once in a lifetime opportunity for travel to the Holy Land. Through our partnership with Select International Tours, NALM members were able to experience the Holy Land in a special way, see many poignant sites, as well as share fellowship as pilgrims on the journey.

### What is it that you are taking home from your pilgrimage to the Holy Land?

*Msgr. Jim Lang, Diocese of Syracuse*



Transformative! Yes, that is the word. The trip to the Holy Land is transformative. We pray that each member of NALM will have the opportunity to visit the Holy Land and its people. Our family of 27 pilgrims engaged every moment of our tour. The photos tell the story of those who enjoyed one another and who were inspired at virtually every turn in the journey. Select International Tours flawlessly guided us. My own favorite moments were the Holy Sepulchre and out meetings with Palestinian Christian families and the students of Bethlehem University. Yet, moments of grace and insight deepened at every stop. As an aperitif

for your own journey you may want to read, **Jesus: A Pilgrimage** by Father Jim Martin, S.J. He captures the journey and its moments with wise thoughts and wonderful wit.

Every step from the Bethlehem and Nazareth to the baptism of the Lord; from the desert temptations to the Galilean ministry; from the entry to Jerusalem to the Resurrection will come alive with wondrous insights. Then add the flavors of Mt. Carmel, Stella Maris, the road of the doves, Caesarea Maritima, Qumran, the Dead Sea, the Valley of the Shadow of Death, and Emmaus and you will fully understand the delights and insights of the pilgrimage. Our 27 pilgrims join you in saying, "Next year – Jerusalem."

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: ROVING REPORTERS (continued)

*Catherine Orr, Director-Department of Living Justice, Diocese of Green Bay*

Nowadays, as lay ministers in the Church, we hear a lot about having a personal encounter with Jesus. For a long time, I struggled to understand what that meant because I prayed regularly, and I did not know if that constituted as an “encounter.” If I could not clearly articulate it, how could I help others have an encounter with Jesus? What I took home from the pilgrimage to the Holy Land is a better understanding of who Jesus was as a person: where He walked, taught, performed miracles, spent time with family and friends, and ultimately, suffered, died and resurrected. Because of that, I know what a personal encounter with Jesus truly means.



*Frank Villaronga, Director of Evangelization and Ministry Formation, Diocese of Charlotte*

While there are many memorable events and experiences which I am still processing and integrating, what currently resonates most with me is the feeling of connection and interconnectedness. I not only felt a bond with those journeying with me on the NALM pilgrimage, I also felt connected with the many pilgrims from other countries we encountered at each of the sites. Our shared faith experience united us and it gave me a renewed sense of how universal our faith truly is.

*Sr. Maryellen Kane, CSJ, Parish Life Coordinator, St. Mary Magdalene Parish, Springfield Gardens, NY*

Although we were twenty-seven people together on this pilgrimage I had a sense that we were part of a much greater pilgrimage that included people from every country, race and language. At the sacred sites we encountered other groups of pilgrims from around the world who were praying and singing in different languages. It was a great sign of the universality of the Church and a witness to the dream of the Gospel that all may be one.



The grace of this pilgrimage for me was a renewed conviction to pray for the peace of the Holy Land and to work for the unity and reconciliation of all people. As Pope Francis reminds us as Christians we are called to build bridges not walls.

## PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND: ROVING REPORTERS (continued)



*Michael Davis, Lay Ministry and Planning, Diocese of Grand Island, NE*

My heart is full of gratitude and Joy...yes even during this Lenten Season. Thanks to the NALM board and the generosity of Edita and Select International Tours, I and twenty-seven other lay ministers from varied dioceses from coast to coast journeyed together as pilgrims' in the footsteps of Jesus! It was my first trip to the Holy Land and it is continuing to bear fruit in ecclesial life and work and in my ongoing conversion to Christ. I highly recommend it! The following two scriptures are the bookends of the trip....covered with mud (wet dust) at the Dead Sea, a new *creature*, emerges.

Gen. 2:7 "Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."

And yes we all landed back home-*full of the life* of Holy Spirit and new found understanding of the life of Jesus and the many disciples.

John 10:10 "I came that they might have life, and might have *it* abundantly."

To see additional pictures of the pilgrimage as well as other events, remember to follow NALM on Facebook:



<https://www.facebook.com/layministry/>

## Prayer



### Easter Morning

As the world sings triumphant cries to heaven over death that you conquered, help us, Lord, tomorrow as well, when the dresses are put away and the candy is all eaten and on with life we go let us not forget.

The celebration of your resurrection over death is a celebration of life that should continue well beyond the sunrise service and the music, rehearsed for days prior; it is beyond the sign of spring, beyond the lily, beyond new lambs grazing in open fields.

Resurrection is a daily celebration over fear; our greatest and most powerful enemy. Fear of tomorrow, fear of our yesterdays, fear of what shall become of our young our old our unborn. Resurrection is replacing fear with physical action.

This alone, the most touching and profound of your signs that fear is dead and belief in you brings, not just hope but life.

What better living parable could You have brought? All fear death. All. Even in the garden, You took on our fear if for only moments, it was as real as our fears can be real and You knew then that this single enemy must be destroyed.

And, You sacrificed your life, leaving those who had been comfort, and follower; You left them behind, to conquer fear.

I shall cling to this now, and the tomorrows given me.

Peace and thanksgiving lifted unto you.

Amen.

<http://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/Lent,-Easter,-and-Spring-Prayers.cfm>

## NALM News and Notes Submission Procedure

We would love to receive your feedback! Do you have a piece of news, committee report, or interesting article that you would like to share with your lay ministry colleagues in the National Association for Lay Ministry? Do you know a NALM member doing something noteworthy in ministry to share with the membership? If so, please submit articles or information by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month to Bridget Klawitter at [klawitterb@archmil.org](mailto:klawitterb@archmil.org).

