



NALM NEWS AND NOTES

May 2016

Welcome to the May 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

I've had a lot of people tell me lately that "age is just a number." I'm sure that's because I reached one of those "milestone" ages. But, age is more than just a number. I'd like to think that as the years stack up, our birthdays offer each of us a time to reflect on life—what we've accomplished, what we still want to do and how we can reach those goals. And so it is with NALM.



As we approach Conference 2016 and the beginning of NALM's 40th anniversary celebration, we can take a look back and recall the vision of a handful of lay ministers who saw value in forming a national organization to support and advocate for lay ministers throughout the country. We see how the organization took root and grew—far more than those original members could have imagined. We look at those who served the organization and their leadership in guiding the association through tough times to flourish. We also look at the accomplishments of NALM—particularly the Emerging Models Project and the wealth of research and data that project provided to NALM and the Church. But, NALM still has much more to do—and all of you are a part of that. So, I invite you to join us in Albuquerque at Conference 2016 so together we can look to the future to imagine where NALM will be 40 years from now.

See you in Albuquerque!

Carol

NALM 2016 Conference

The NALM 2016 Conference at the Hyatt Regency in Albuquerque, New Mexico is fast approaching. To obtain full information about the Conference that will take place from June 1-4, 2016 including the schedule, information about speakers, and breakout sessions as well as the pre-Conference Institutes and to register, [CLICK HERE](#).





SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS: NALM AT 40 Called to Serve, Collaborate, Dream

NALM's 40th Anniversary celebration, beginning with our annual conference in Albuquerque June 1-4, is a time to look back at all the Lay Ministers, Religious Sisters and Brothers, and Priests who were the "founding mothers and fathers" of NALM. It is difficult to name them all for fear of leaving someone out but we are grateful for all the early pioneers in lay ministry who, shaped by the vision and teaching of Vatican II, came together to advocate for lay ministry.

The title of the Association is significant, National Association *for* Lay Ministry and not *of* Lay Ministry, as it has always been *for* the ministry of the Church as performed by its lay members. Central to NALM has been the goal of the formation of laity so that they are deeply grounded in the life and tradition of the Church.

Another objective of NALM is that of collaboration. Over the years, NALM has been the center of many projects that have shaped and emphasized the importance of lay ministry within the Church. These projects have included: co-sponsoring the Synod Conference on the Laity in 1987; the development of the watershed document, *Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord: A Resource for Guiding the Development of Lay Ecclesial Ministry*, and the continuation of the conversation on *Co-Workers* during the National Symposiums held at St. John's School of Theology and Seminary in Collegeville, Minnesota. The most significant of these collaborations was NALM's leadership in the *Emerging Models Project* which was a joint venture of six national Catholic associations to identify and promote new models of pastoral leadership that nurture, sustain, and empower vibrant Catholic parish communities in the United States.

NALM has been on the forefront in developing certification standards for lay ministers. The result of this effort are the *Competency-Based Standards for Pastoral Ministers, Pastoral Associates and Parish Life Coordinators*. NALM's leadership in developing these competencies led to the creation of the *Alliance for Certification of Lay Ecclesial Ministers* which is a joint effort of five national associations to affirm and promote lay ecclesial ministry in the United States.

NALM's many accomplishments also include: the publication of many books on the outcomes of the *Emerging Models Project* and the *Co-Workers in the Vineyard* study guide; the Home Mission Network and the creation of the NALM Advocacy committee in 2006. The Advocacy committee has been especially effective in composing two NALM position statements on *Co-Workers* and Lay Ecclesial Ministry Councils, the *Call to Ministry Stories* during the 2012 conference and collecting Lay Ministry Sunday resources that have been translated in several languages. NALM also had the honor of leading a pilgrimage to Rome to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vatican II.

NALM's annual conference has been the catalyst for many of the concepts leading to these important projects. The conference has served as a valuable means for members to share their ideas for the future of lay ministry as well as network to receive support from their fellow *Co-Workers in the Vineyard*. NALM was able to have an influential presence during the Bishop's 2015 Lay Ecclesial Ministry Summit

Called to Serve, Collaborate, Dream (continued)

through the work that was accomplished during the 2015 Conference at Catholic Theological Union for the 10 year anniversary of *Co-Workers in the Vineyard*. It is our hope that we will see many of you at this year's conference in Albuquerque June 1-4 so that we can add your voice to our plans for the future of NALM.

There is still much work for NALM to do in supporting, educating and advocating for lay ministers and for lay ministry in the Catholic Church but we know the members of NALM will continue to help us in our mission to *Serve, Collaborate and Dream* for a new generation of lay ministers.

ON THE GROUND IN ALBUQUERQUE

Our on-the-ground reporter, Keith Davis, has been sharing with us different ways conference attendees can get around and see Albuquerque. This month we focus on transportation options. The Albuquerque International Sunport is conveniently located 12 minutes or 5.5 miles from downtown Albuquerque, so transportation is fairly easy. Here are some choices:

- Sunport Shuttle (Sunportshuttle.com) – Pick up at the airport (outside the baggage claim area) ~ \$11 one way, \$20 round trip. Reservations@Sunportshuttle.com or 866-505-4966
- Taxis - Readily available outside of the baggage claim area. The normal charge is \$2.50 per mile but there may be surcharges for the airport which will bring that up a bit. This might be a good choice if you are travelling with someone as the added passenger fare is rather inexpensive. Cabs are also available at the hotel if you want to do some sightseeing.
- Car Rental - If you plan on doing some sight-seeing, consider renting a car. There is a lot to see in New Mexico and if you haven't been here you won't want to miss the opportunity! All the major car rental companies are available. Take the car rental shuttle to the facility adjacent to the airport – just a few minutes from the terminal.
- ABQ Ride (Bus): City Busses run regular routes from the Sunport to Downtown Albuquerque. You would have about a one block walk from the bus stop to the Hyatt. Bus #50 picks up outside baggage claim at the end of the shuttle pick up area. Pick up is every half hour (on the hour). It takes about 15 minutes to get from the airport to the bus stop near the hotel. The fare is \$1 or you can get a one-day pass for \$2. There are also bus routes from near the hotel to all the major tourist areas, including Old Town. For route and schedule information, go to: <https://www.cabq.gov/transit/bus-routes-and-schedules>
- Old Town Site-Seeing Tour: The Archdiocese of Santa Fe will provide a bus on Wednesday evening (after the pre-conference Institutes first session) to Old Town. You will be able to shop and have dinner. There is no charge for this service.

NALM DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE YOU CAN HELP “CHART” THE FUTURE OF NALM

As we get closer to the 2016 Annual Conference in Albuquerque and the beginning of the 40th anniversary year of NALM, every member is invited to become a charter donor in the 2016 Annual Appeal. All gifts received by the end of the Annual Business Meeting on June 3rd will be considered

YOU CAN HELP “CHART” THE FUTURE OF NALM (continued)

charter donor contributions for this year’s campaign. Each charter donor will receive a special memento indicating their willingness to help NALM soar to new heights as our professional association.

NALM is what it is today in large part due to the generosity of many people before us. We now carry the yoke of providing for today and the future. We enjoy the shade of the trees planted (gifts) by those who have gone before us. Let’s plant more trees.

This Annual Fund process is capped off with the Annual Appeal letter and your generous responses in late fall. NALM accepts gifts all throughout the year. You can make gifts in honor or in memory of someone, in celebration of an anniversary of ministerial service, or any reason that is special to you. Please mark your reason clearly on your gift check. All gifts to NALM regardless of the timing are important and appreciated.

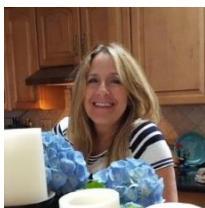
Our regular Appeal letter will be in your mail this fall, but we all have the opportunity to “jump start” the Appeal today. There is so much that goes on behind the scenes to keep our association vibrant and helpful to all members, and our gifts help make this happen. Gifts can also be given for conference scholarships. You, the donor, can direct your gift for association expenses or the Sister Florita Scholarship Fund.

Please consider being a charter donor of the 2016 Annual Appeal. Send your gift to: NALM, 5401 S. Cornell Street, #210, Chicago, Illinois 60615, go to the NALM website and donate electronically, or make your gift during your attendance at the Annual Conference. Thank you for your continued generosity ensuring our call to serve, collaborate and dream.

2016 CONFERENCE: ROVING REPORTERS

Question: What are you most looking forward to about the 2016 NALM Conference?

Sr. Diane Koorie, RSM, Director, Office of Pastoral Ministry, Archdiocese of Oklahoma City
I most look forward to meeting up with colleagues, sharing our struggles and successes, exchanging ideas, encouraging and even commiserating a little bit. I always leave the Formation Directors Institute and Conference feeling supported, energized to carry on, and with a new idea or two that really works.



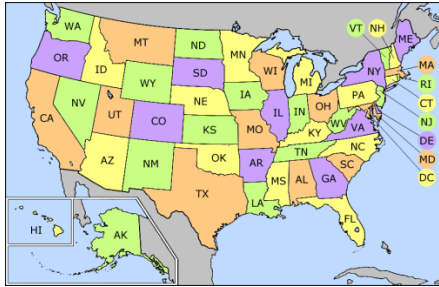
Dawn Ruskinko, Pastoral Associate, Sacred Heart Church in Bay Head, NJ, and St. Pio's Parish in Lavalette, NJ

What I am most looking forward to experiencing at the upcoming NALM Conference in New Mexico is connecting and reconnecting with other Lay Ministers from around the country and hearing their stories about what they are doing in their parishes, dioceses, and communities.

Jamie Whalen, Director for Lay Ministry Formation, Diocese of Green Bay, WI
The NALM Conference has always been highly recommended to me. As a first-time attendee, newly responsible for the lay ministry formation programs in my diocese, I am really looking forward to networking with other directors, sharing best practices, and enjoying the company of fellow ministers.



REGIONAL REP UPDATE



A little over a year ago, NALM's Board of Directors established the role of Regional Representative. The purpose of having Regional Representatives from each of the episcopal regions of the United States is to help to establish and maintain good communication within regions, communicate regularly with NALM members and the Board about issues of regional importance, arrange virtual or in-person meetings and workshops and assist in other ways.

Another way that Reps assist NALM is by reaching out to NALM members in their regions to get a sense from members what issues are important and the programming they would like to see in their region.

NALM's website now includes a page in the "About Us" tab that includes a map of the regions and the name and contact information for the Reps. Here is the direct link:

<https://nalm.memberclicks.net/regional-representatives>. We invite all members to look up their Rep and to make a connection. Perhaps you have a local event that you want to advertise to a broader audience or have an issue of local importance that you would like to receive comments about.

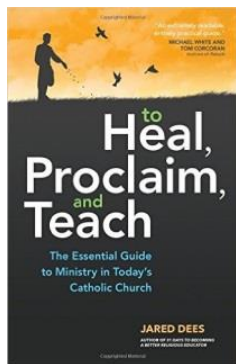
You will also note that there are a number of Regional Rep vacancies to fill. If you feel called to this role, please contact NALM Membership Committee member Jerry Tortorella at gtortorella@diobrook.org or (718) 965-7300, extension 5559 to discuss your interest.

If every NALM member works together through their Rep, we can grow membership region-by-region to help NALM "Soar to New Heights."

Book Review

To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach: The Essential Guide to Ministry in Today's Catholic Church (2016)

Blog review by Colleen R. Vermeulen



Okay, so I'm not going to lie. When I first picked up Jared Dees' new book, *To Heal, Proclaim, and Teach: The Essential Guide to Ministry in Today's Catholic Church* (Ave Maria Press, 2016), I was initially underwhelmed. Even a little bored. I mean, Dees was just saying stuff that's obvious over and over, that people in ministry know, right?

But I kept reading. And as I worked my way through the book, I realized that these characteristics are precisely what makes this book so valuable. Absolutely needed in American parish life. I cannot think of another book that summarizes the essential theology of evangelization in such an approachable, easy-to-reference way.

But this book is more than theology—it moves to a basic framework of practice that places all functions of typical parish life (that so many like to silo and separate) within the unity and fullness of evangelization. [READ MORE](#)

Liturgical Calendar for May

- 1 **Sixth Sunday of Easter**
- 2 Saint Athanasius
Saints Philip & James, Apostles
- 5 ***ASCENSION OF THE LORD**
- 8 **Seventh Sunday of Easter**
- 10 Saint Damien de Veuster
- 12 Saints Nereus, Achilleus & Pancras
- 13 Our Lady of Fatima
- 14 **Saint Matthias, Apostle ~ FEAST**
- 15 **PENTECOST ~ SOLEMNITY**
- 18 Saint John I
- 20 Saint Bernardine of Siena
- 21 Saint Christopher Magallanes & Companions, Blessed
Virgin Mary
- 22 **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY ~ SOLEMNITY**
- 25 Saints Bede, Gregory VII, & Mary Magdalene de Pazzi
- 26 Saint Philip Neri
- 27 Saint Augustine of Canterbury
- 28 Blessed Virgin Mary
- 29 **CORPUS CHRISTI ~ SOLEMNITY**
- 30 **VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ~ FEAST**



**The ecclesiastical provinces of Boston, Hartford, New York, Newark, Omaha and Philadelphia have retained its celebration on the proper Thursday while all other provinces have transferred this Solemnity to the Seventh Sunday of Easter, May 8. If transferred, Thursday May 5 is observed as an Easter Weekday.*

Prayer



St. Augustine's Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, that my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, that my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, that I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, to defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, that I always may be holy. Amen.

<http://www.catholic.org/prayers/>

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 22nd of each month to Bridget Klawitter at klawitterb@archmil.org.

