A yearlong celebration of NALM’s 40th Anniversary comes to a close at our 41st Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Downtown in Indianapolis, IN. What if our founding members (please see John Reid’s article for the names of the founding NALM members) could join us? What might they say to us? On the one hand, they might be glad to see that their vision of a lay organization continues. I suspect our founders might encourage us to be bolder in addressing lay ministry needs throughout the US.

A Message from the Chair — Mark Erdosy

We will also honor three outstanding people for their contributions to lay ministry at this year’s Annual Conference. First, the Most Reverend Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino will receive the Gaudium et Spes Award for promoting understanding of the Church in the world according to the vision of Vatican II. Jerry Tortorella of the Diocese of Brooklyn will receive the Spirit of the Conference for his service on behalf of lay ministry. Dr. Arturo Chávez of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, TX, will receive the St. Juan Diego Award recognizing his outstanding witness to the spirit and values embodied in the life of St. Juan Diego, the first saint of the Americas.

As we close the 40th Anniversary we do so as we look forward to the next forty years and how NALM can boldly address the needs of the US Catholic Church. Join us in Indianapolis and help us imagine NALM’s missionary path forward. See you in Indy!

Peace,
Mark
2017 ANNUAL CONFERENCE ~ Just 4 weeks away!

Join us in Indianapolis, IN, June 1-3, 2017, to celebrate the close of NALM’s 40th anniversary year.

Hotel Information
Hyatt Regency – Downtown Indianapolis
One South Capitol Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317.632.1234
NALM Room Rate: $139 + taxes
Please register through the NALM block at the Hyatt Regency Downtown

CLICK HERE for registration information.

NALM Pre-Conference Institute

Please join us at our Pre-Conference Institute as we gather with five of the most remarkable wisdom figures whose professional lives have been dedicated to the development and growth of lay ministry in the Catholic Church of the United States. Join Dr. Harry Dudley, Dr. Zeni Fox, Dr. Marti Jewell, Fr. Joe Merkt, and Dr. Jean Marie Weber as they lead us in reflecting upon one of the most significant developments in lay ministry since the Second Vatican Council – The National Certification Standards and Competencies which have given our vocation clear affirmation and professional credibility.

Under their expert guidance, we will collectively reflect upon one of the most significant developments in lay ministry since the Second Vatican Council – The National Certification Standards and Competencies which have given our vocation clear affirmation and professional credibility.

It will be a time of:
♦ deep listening to one another’s experiences of the Standards & Competencies,
♦ prayerfully and honestly reflecting on how we might use them more effectively,
♦ creatively envisioning how they might be revised in light of our experiences and the needs of the Church going forward, and
♦ thoughtfully considering the potential the Standards may hold for certifying parish business managers.

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It will be helpful for Parish Business Managers and Parish Finance Council Chairs to have read, "The Role and Reality of Parish Business Managers and Finance Council Chairs" from the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership project before attending the pre-conference. You may access the report HERE.
JOINING US IN INDIANAPOLIS?

For those who are planning to attend our conference and celebrate the conclusion of NALM’s 40th anniversary year, we want to help make your trip to Indianapolis and the Conference as easy as possible. Registered for the Conference yet? Made your hotel reservations? Arranged your transportation? Check out the 2017 Conference page on our website HERE for helpful information and links as you make your plans.

LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS

NALM is a Board run organization. The 8-member Board, together with an advisor from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, furthers the mission, values, and goals of NALM through visioning, planning, and running the day-to-day operations of the organization.

Yearly Board elections are held by the membership for NALM. Watch your email for our upcoming Board elections and make your voice count!

BOOK REVIEW

The Art of Accompaniment: Four Essential Conversations on Becoming the Kind of Parish the Church Needs Today

by Bill Huebsch (Twenty-Third Publications, 2017)

Review written by Connie Clark

Beginning in the first year of his papacy when he washed and kissed the feet of twelve juvenile offenders on Holy Thursday, Pope Francis has walked the walk of accompaniment. Through the years, he continues to set an example. He has taken in er. “ (Evangelii Gaudium, 169) For many people, following Pope Francis’ example of accompaniment is a matter of becoming more attuned to others’ crosses. But for parish ministers, it’s a little more complicated. If we are to implement the art of accompaniment as a pastoral strategy, there are things to realistically consider. How will we interpret Pope Francis’ words? How do we dialog with people whose beliefs or morals conflict with ours? How long can we reasonably stand with others without getting burned out ourselves? In short, how can we make accompaniment work in our parishes?

Fortunately, Bill Huebsch has written a thoughtful, informed guide that can help lay ministers address these questions and more. The Art of Accompaniment: Four Essential Conversations on Becoming the Kind of Parish the Church Needs Today (Twenty-Third Publications, 2017), essentially provides a framework for prayerful discussion and action. Each conversation begins with a prayer and offers some theological background in terms you don’t need an advanced degree in divinity to understand.
NALM News and Notes

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

If your mail box is anything like most of ours, it is filled most days with requests from numerous not for profit organizations. Each one of these requests comes from reputable and helpful places that do wonderful work. We on the Development Committee realize that each of us is inundated with these requests. We all face many questions in deciding to whom we give our hard-earned money. Do I respond to everyone? Do I reply to none of them? How do I prioritize my giving? Many questions; how do we answer them? This giving quandary can have a positive result when you ask yourself – “What organizations mean the most to me, my family, my ministerial work, etc.?”

Consider making NALM one of your top three charitable concerns. You are a member of NALM for a reason and that reason should help you map out your giving to NALM. Perhaps you believe in lay ministry and want to see our association grow. Have you been to a conference and realized that you learned in a way that enhanced your ministry work when you returned home? Perhaps some information on the website has been helpful to you? Whatever your “perhaps” is, let it help you direct your giving.

Most gifts that NALM receives help to maintain the work of our association. There are many operational costs involved with maintaining a national association that provides networking, advocacy, technology, printing and mailing, continuing education and, of course, our annual conference scholarship fund.

Each year we hope to send a number of people to our conference who otherwise would not be able to attend. The Sister Florita Rodman Scholarship is without funds in 2017. Maybe you could be the person responsible for another lay minister’s conference experience.

All gifts made before the end of the 2017 NALM conference in Indianapolis will be considered Charter Donations. Charter Donors will receive a special recognition for their gifts. Gifts of all sizes are welcome and regarded as true blessings. Please consider NALM as one of your top three charitable causes and send your gift to the NALM office or donate on line. Together we can make a difference as we soar into our next 40 years of being the association for lay ministers. Peace and blessings to you all.

2018 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths” Isaiah 2:3

Faith Journey of a Lifetime through the Holy Land
February 4-13, 2018

NALM’s second annual pilgrimage to the Holy Land will be held from February 4-13, 2018. We are excited to offer our members discounted prices on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. For ten days, NALM members are led on a tour of the Holy Land by experienced guides. Walk in the footsteps of Jesus and his followers. CLICK HERE for more information.
NALM NEWS AND NOTES

NALM AT 40 ~ TAKING A LOOK BACK

This is the fourth in a series of articles highlighting a look back at the history of NALM as we close out our anniversary year.

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BY JOHN REID

This is what we are about.
We plant the seeds that one day will grow.
We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.
We lay foundations that will need further development.
We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that.
This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord’s grace to enter and do the rest.

I have been reflecting recently on the meaning of this excerpt from a prayer entitled “Prophets of a Future Not Our Own.” These words have been widely attributed to both Archbishop Oscar Romero and Bishop Ken Untener. I have been thinking about these words in light of the 40th anniversary of the National Association for Lay Ministry (NALM).

Forty years ago seeds were planted by some visionary faith leaders who were attuned to the Spirit’s work that flowed so freely from Vatican II. Br. Loughlan Sofield ST invited 20 men and women engaged in lay ministry formation to a gathering in Philadelphia in 1977 to what was then called the National Conference of Lay Ministry Coordinators. At the end of that first gathering, participants agreed to meet again in Dallas in 1978 and to invite more participants. Eventually there was a third meeting in Chicago in 1979.

My first conference was in Washington D.C. in 1980 where the question was raised: do we share enough in common to begin a national association? With a resounding response of “yes” by conference participants, the planning committee for the Cleveland gathering in 1981 became the organizing committee for the new association. I had the privilege of serving on that early planning committee. It was quite an experience for me to suddenly be working with a talented group of lay women and men as well as priests and sisters who were all committed to the growth and development of lay ministry in the United States.

According to the 20th Anniversary Conference Booklet, that original planning committee included Fr. John F.X. Burton SJ, Joe Chamberlain, Pat Davis, Zoila Diaz, Trish Dunn, Suzanne Elsesser, Bill Hardwick, Sr. Julie Harkens, Michael Lyons, Fr. Elmer Marquard, Arline Nosse, John Reid, Sr. Florita Rodman CDP, Marian Schwab, Mercedes Scopetta and Br. Loughlan Sofield ST.

In 1981, Cleveland conference attendees voted affirmatively to authorize new by-laws and install the first governing board. NALM was on its way, under the name of the National Association of Lay Ministry Coordinators (NALMC).

Over the years NALM has faced many challenges — some financial; some about the choice to become larger or smaller, some regarding questions of who we represent and for what did we want to advocate. Always staying true to its mission, I believe NALM has continued to be a significant partner with many organizations within the Catholic Church in the United States.

I would like to share some reflections with you from the early years to the present and will do so in eight year segments. The diversity of locations throughout the years shows clearly the national nature of our association.

READ MORE
NALM News and Notes

LITANY FOR THE EASTER SEASON

Father of life, we give you praise and glory.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

You have given Jesus victory over sin.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

You have raised him from the dead.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

You have made his cross a sign of glory.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

You have made us sharers in your life.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

With Christ, you have buried us in death to sin.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

With him you have raised us to new life.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

He is seated with you in glory.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

He sends his Spirit to guide our lives.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

Jesus will come again in glory.  
_Christ is risen, alleluia!_

RESOURCES FOR YOUR MINISTRY

STM Online: Crossroads

Mission
STM Online: Crossroads, a program of Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, offers non-credit online courses for adult spiritual enrichment and faith formation. With a focus on shared reflection in an online learning community, Crossroads models the kind of conversation and participation that lead to deeper understanding of and personal growth in faith.

History
The concept of Crossroads emerged in 2004 during discussions on how to extend Boston College's successful Church in the 21st Century initiative beyond its initial two-year period. Two strategic directions were adopted: first, to establish a permanent Church in the 21st Century Center, and, second, to develop an online program for adult Catholics to promote both greater understanding and personal growth in the Catholic faith. While not formally part of the C21 Center, Crossroads maintains a collaborative relationship with the Center and shares its mission of service to American Catholics in the new century. In Fall 2004 Crossroads partnered with Boston College's Institute of Religious Education and Pastoral Ministry (IREPM) to launch its first courses. In June 2008, Crossroads joined Weston Jesuit School of Theology and the IREPM to form the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry.

CLICK HERE for more information on opportunities through STM Online: Crossroads.

NALM News and Notes Submission Procedure

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? If so, please submit pieces by the end of each month to the Publications Committee Chair, Bridget Klawitter. Her email is klawitterb@archmil.org