



# NATIONAL VOCATIONS AWARENESS DIVISION

---

J.S. Paluch Company, Inc.  
Franklin Park, Illinois  
August 17-19, 2009

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### J.S. PALUCH 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL VOCATION SEMINAR

National and regional vocation, formation, marriage and family life, and youth ministry leaders met at the Embassy Suites Hotel O'Hare-Rosemont in Rosemont, Illinois, a Chicago suburb, August 17-19, 2009, for the 22nd annual vocation seminar sponsored by the J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. Rev. Roger L. Schwietz, OMI, Archbishop of Anchorage and former Chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Committee on Vocations, delivered the keynote address at this year's seminar entitled *A Collaborative Community Creating a Culture of Vocations*. Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, Executive Director of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), Sr. Mary Bendyna, RSM, Executive Director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), and Very Rev. Thomas Dragga, Rector of Borromeo College Seminary and National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Executive Committee member, presented results from current studies on recent vocations to religious life and psychological assessment policies and practices for candidates for priestly formation and priesthood. Mr. Dominic Perri of Essential Conversations Group served as facilitator for the seminar and led participants through an interactive process to clarify goals and set up a network of collaboration among the representatives of the many groups present.

The opening session on Monday provided organizational updates from Sr. Eileen McCann, USCCB Coordinator for Youth and Young Adult Ministries, reporting on behalf of the Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations; Executive Directors Mrs. Rosemary Sullivan of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), Br. Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, of the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), and Sr. Diane Poplawski, OP, of the National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV), as well as Rev. Mark A. Latcovich, Chairperson of the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) Seminary Department Executive Committee, Rev. Eugene Hemrick, Director of the National Institute for the Renewal of the Priesthood, and Dr. Patricia Skarda, Vocation Committee Chair for the U.S. Conference of Secular Institutes (USCSI).

Very Rev. Dennis Lyle, Rector/President of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary, gave the invocation at the opening dinner, which included local guests from the archdiocese, as well as Paluch managers and staff members. Mr. William Rafferty, President, and

Mrs. Mary Lou Paluch Rafferty, Publisher, J.S. Paluch Company, welcomed dinner guests. Sr. Diane Poplawski, OP, served as Master of Ceremonies. Special guests at the dinner included Rev. Msgr. Krzysztof Pawlina, President of the Rectors Conference in Poland; Very Rev. Marek Kasperczyk, Rector, and Rev. Andrzej Izyk, Director of Spiritual Formation, Bishop Abramowicz Seminary; Very Rev. Donald Senior, CP, President, and Ms. Anne Marie Tirpak, Director of Development, Catholic Theological Union at Chicago; Sr. Joan McGlinchey, MSC, Vicar for Religious, and Sr. Kathy McNulty, OSF, Assistant Director, Office for Religious, Archdiocese of Chicago; and board members from the Chicago Archdiocesan Vocation Association (CAVA).

Following dinner, Ms. Dolores Orzel, Creative Director of the National Vocations Awareness Division (NVAD), presented the NVAD *Leadership in Vocation Ministry Award* to Br. Bernard F. Stratman, SM, outgoing Executive Director of the NCEA Seminary Department. Br. Stratman received the well-deserved award for his many years of dedicated service to the NCEA, as well as his collaborative work with many Catholic vocation and education organizations across the U.S.

Rev. Joseph Noonan, Vocation Director, and Sr. Elyse Marie Ramirez, OP, Coordinator of Religious Vocations Ministries, of the Archdiocese of Chicago, welcomed seminar participants, including Rev. Robin Ryan, CP, Catholics on Call Director, Catholic Theological Union, and one of the presenters at the 2008 Paluch seminar; NCDVD President, Rev. Len Plazewski, and board members from the NCDVD and the NRVC; the Executive Board of the NCCV; the NVAD Advisory Board; and NCEA Seminary Department Executive Committee member Rev. Richard Siepka.

Canadian vocation organizations were represented by Sr. Kathleen Kelly, SSS, President, and Sr. Maureen Baldwin, CND, Executive Director, of the Canadian National Association of Vocation and Formation Directors (NAVFD), and Rev. Matthew Kucharski, Treasure of the Diocesan Vocation Directors of Canada.

Special guests from other national organizations included Rev. Paul Lininger, OFM Conv. Executive Director, Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM); Sr. Nancy Mathias, OSU, Vice President of the National Conference of Vicars for Religious; Sr. Annmarie Sanders, IHM, Director of Communications, Leadership Conference of Women Religious; Ms. Valerie E. Washington, Executive Director of the National Black Catholic Congress; Rev. Richard Vega, President of the National Association of Priests' Councils; Deacon Thomas Dubois, MPS, Executive Director of the National Association of Diaconate Directors (NADD); Sr. Charlene Diorka, SSJ, NRVC Associate Director; Ms. Debbi M. Della Porta, Board Member, and Ms. Jennifer E. Roseman, Director of Communications & Development, of the National Conference of Women Religious Communicators (NCNWR); Mr. Michael D. Wick, Executive Director, Institute on Religious Life; Mr. Andrew Costigan, Recruitment Associate from the Catholic Network of Volunteer Service; Ms. Patrice Tuohy, Executive Editor, TrueQuest Communications; and Mrs. Carol Schuck Scheiber, Editor of the Journal HORIZON,

Youth, young adult, and marriage and family life organizations were represented by Rev. Marty Moran, Executive Director of the Catholic Campus Ministry Association; Mr. Paul Jarzembowski, Executive Director, National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association; Paul and Missy Parkison, Executive Directors of the Christian Family Movement; and Mr. Matthew Robaszkiewicz, Member Services Coordinator for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

Douglas P. McRoy, President, and Mrs. Anne McRoy, Programs Committee of the Serra Club of the Lima Area; Mr. Homer A. Radford, Vice President of Vocations, and Mrs. Katie Radford, Past District Governor; Mr. Daniel Jones, Vocations Committee Chair and Portland Regional Director, and Mrs. Lynn Jones, Portland Serra Club Webmaster joined Mr. Ed Verbeke, Executive Director, and Mr Peter Cunningham, Membership Coordinator, in representing the USA Council of Serra International.

The J.S. Paluch Company underwrites the seminar and organizes this annual event in consultation with the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), and the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of Chicago. In addition to sponsoring this seminar, the National Vocations Awareness Division of the J.S. Paluch Company produces family appointment calendars (Vocation, Religious Art, Stewardship, and Scenic/Scripture), as well as parish bulletins and bulletin filler art and copy with vocation themes. The Paluch Company is a partner in, and Executive Board Member of, the National Coalition for Church Vocations (NCCV). Additional support for vocation ministry is provided through the Paluch Family Foundation, an independent charitable foundation, which honors service in liturgy, stewardship, and vocations.

For further information, contact Dolores Orzel, Creative Director, NVAD, J.S. Paluch Company, Inc., 3708 River Road, Suite 400, Franklin Park, Illinois 60131-2158, 800-621-5197, ext. 2755, FAX to 888-957-3291, email to [orzeld@jspaluch.com](mailto:orzeld@jspaluch.com), and visit [www.jspaluch.com](http://www.jspaluch.com) and click on National Vocations Awareness.

—end—