

# IN Formation-Vocation SCNJ

E-NEWSLETTER OF THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ELIZABETH

WINTER 2017



Group of students and Sisters during a week of service at House of Charity, New Orleans



Jessica Velasquez, Ananya Kadir and Sister Maryanne Tracey

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## Week of Service at the House of Charity in New Orleans

By Jessica Velasquez

On January 3, 2017, I set off for my first out-of-town volunteer experience. The five-day trip was sponsored by the Sisters of Charity and I went with Sister Maryanne Tracey and Ananya Kadir, a senior from the College of Saint Elizabeth. We spent our time at the House of Charity in New Orleans and worked on three different sites. The first site consisted of cleaning up a lot that was abandoned for years. After a lot of physical labor, the sidewalk was cleared, and the foundation of a house was discovered under rubble. The next two sites were with a local agency called the St. Bernard Project. The tasks consisted of sanding and mudding walls, and putting up drywall. We got down and dirty to get the job done, and get it done right.

I've learned that without volunteers, it would take an organization like this a lot longer to have families move back into their homes. It was a great experience to meet the homeowners and hear the stories about how Hurricane Katrina impacted them. Eleven years later, many families are still trying to renovate and move back into their homes. Throughout the trip, I figured that our mission wasn't to see a house completed by my team, but was instead to help out as much as possible. I can definitely say that this was a worthwhile experience that has in many ways continued to ignite my passion for service.



**First-Ever Religious Brothers Day**

**May 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2017**

Info: [www.yearforconsecratedlife.com](http://www.yearforconsecratedlife.com)

**Religious Formation Conference Webinar**  
February 17, 2017 @ 2pm CT



Info: [www.relforcon.org/upcoming-webinars](http://www.relforcon.org/upcoming-webinars)

## NRVC: Energized, Hopeful, Joyful

By Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC



Sisters Elise Gittrich, Maryanne Tracey and Ellen Dauwer

Held in Kansas City in October, the National Religious Vocation Conference was an opportunity for Sisters Maryanne Tracey, Elise Gittrich and Ellen Dauwer, who attended as the Director of the Religious Formation Conference, to spend some time together. "Awakened by the Spirit: Called to Discipleship" was the theme of the conference, which is held biennially. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with Vocation Directors throughout the country and to draw on their energy and enthusiasm for Vocations.

There were many opportunities to listen to speakers. Notably, the Conference hosted two panels on Young Adult Religious. The young speakers were both informative and inspiring as they related their stories of the Call to Consecrated Life.

Sister Elise summed up the experience of the conference in a few words: "Energized, hopeful, joyful/consecrated life."

Sister Ellen recounts her experience in the following way:

"NRVC provided an opportunity for quality input as well as interaction with vocation directors and others in the vocation ministry throughout the United States. It is always a lively and enjoyable group of extroverts who have lots of life and enthusiasm for the future."

## Vocation Office to Launch Podcast

by Jessica Bonder

The Vocation Office is launching its very own podcast. In its ever-growing effort to expand on social media, Vocation is looking to utilize the audio format to further engage the community. This first episode will feature a discussion about National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, which is a nationwide celebration of Sister Stories. The ultimate goal of NCSW is to raise awareness of the profound influence Sisters have. It is also the hope that the week will lead more young women to consider religious vocations.

To this end, the first Vocation podcast will introduce ways that the community can begin to participate. The Office of Vocation is excited about the possibilities that this new format offers.

## SAVE THE DATE

*"This was my city - NEW YORK - the city of my birth,  
of my friendships, of my marriage - the city of my FAITH."*

-Elizabeth Ann Seton

*Elizabeth of New York*

BY SISTER FRANCIS MARIA CASSIDY, SC

THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 23  
2017  
AT 2 P.M.  
FRIDAY  
FEBRUARY 24  
2017  
AT 8 P.M.  
SATURDAY  
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2017  
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