



**North American Conference of Associates and Religious
NACAR International Conference
June 1-3, 2012
Hyatt Deerfield
Chicago, Illinois**

Welcome!

When the NACAR Board considered the theme for our 2012 conference, the idea of blessings kept coming to the forefront of our conversation. As we discussed the growth of the Associate Movement, we were struck by the influence of the Holy Spirit and God's continual grace that has been present at every juncture. This led us to reflect on the immense outpouring of God's goodness in daily living, which each of us has experienced in our own lives. Suddenly, we realized that the 2012 NACAR Conference had named itself: *A Journey of Blessings*.



We are thankful to have Joyce Rupp as our keynote speaker and to listen to her insights on both journeys and blessings. We will have time to reflect on her words and the impact they have for us as associates and religious. During our conference we will also invite you, the members, to give voice to your ideas for NACAR, to share your dreams for what we can become together. We hope that you are able to join us in celebrating the blessings on our journey and help us envision a future full of promise and hope.

Marci Madary
President, NACAR Board of Directors

Welcome to Chicago and Conference 2012!

NACAR Board of Directors

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2012 Conference Schedule

Friday, June 1

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Vendor/Exhibitors Registration
1:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Conference Participant Registration
3:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Pre-Conference workshops
2:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Exhibits are Open
	Supper (On your own)
7:30 pm	Welcome, Opening Ritual and Social

Saturday, June 2

7:00 am – 8:30 am	Continental Breakfast
7:30 am – 9:00 am	Exhibits are Open
8:00 am – 9:00 am	Conference Registration
9:00 am	Welcome, Morning Prayer
9:30 am – 10:30 am	Keynote by Joyce Rupp, OSM
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Break / Exhibits are Open
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Joyce Rupp and Dyads
11:30 am – 12 noon	Open mic
12:00 pm	Pick up Lunch / Exhibits are Open
1:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Breakout Session One – Going Deeper: Mystery of the Journey
2:45 pm – 3:15 pm	Break / Exhibits are Open
3:15 pm – 4:30 pm	Breakout Session Two – Journey Further with US
6:00 pm	Banquet/Entertainment

Sunday, June 3

7:00 am – 9:00 am	Exhibits are open (final showing)
7:00 am – 8:30 am	Breakfast
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Summary of Regional Groups
10:30 am – 11:00 am	General Session - Membership Meeting
11:30 am	Liturgy and Farewell Blessing

Please note: This is an advance schedule to use for planning purposes only and does not indicate all breaks and session details. A complete schedule will be included in your registration materials when you arrive for the Conference.

Keynote Speaker



Joyce Rupp, OSM

Journeying in the Land of Don't Know

Religious life today presents more questions than answers. This liminal space of “don’t know” regarding the future holds both challenge and opportunity for personal and communal growth. Amid the search for clarity and direction, this journey requires visionary leaders and trusting travelers willing to risk the road for what lies beyond. Vowed and associate members of religious communities in this current era of uncertainty are much like the Exodus people, leaving a secure frame of reference and setting out on a journey laden with possibilities for spiritual transformation. This journey requires the strength of individual and communal creativity and wisdom. Joyce Rupp will address these areas of “don’t know,” along with encouraging a confident, nurturing relationship with the Holy One and with each other.

Joyce Rupp is well known for her work as a writer, a “spiritual midwife,” and an international retreat leader and conference speaker. She is a member of the Servite (Servants of Mary) community and has served on both their formation and leadership teams. She is currently co-director of [The Institute of Compassionate Presence](#). Joyce is the author of over twenty best selling books. Her latest publication is [Fragments of Your Ancient Name: 365 Glimpses of the Divine for Daily Meditation](#). Joyce Rupp resides in Des Moines, Iowa, and can be visited online at www.joycerupp.com.

We at NACAR are honored that Joyce Rupp accepted our invitation to be the Conference’s keynote speaker. To learn more about Joyce and her work you can check out her website at

www.joycerupp.com



Breakout Sessions

Pre-Conference Sessions – These sessions will be offered prior to the opening of the conference on Friday afternoon beginning at 3:00 pm and are limited to 50 people per session. \$35 per person

1. **Tools for the Journey: Best Practices for Associate Ministry** **Marci Madary and Tim O'Brien**

Do you ever wonder what ideas will continue to enliven and encourage growth in the associate-religious relationship within your congregation? This pre-conference session is geared toward Associate Directors who want to further develop their associate ministry. Through organized facilitation, best practices will be shared and trends within the Associate Movement will be discussed. Come ready to present one great idea from your Associate-Religious Relationship, and leave with five more.

Marci Madary has been an Affiliation Co-Minister with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration since 1997. In 2003, she began her service on the board of North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR), and she has served as board chair since 2004. She enjoys presenting workshops for NACAR. She has also taken leadership roles in other inter-congregational organizations such as Midwest Kindred Spirits and Next Generation Franciscans.

Marci's background is in education. She has worked as pastoral minister in a parish and has a passion for poetry. Marci has a Masters of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from St. Mary's University in Winona, MN. But her most impressive credential is being a mother of two fabulous teenagers.

Tim O'Brien currently serves at The Salvation Army Harbor Light Center in Chicago as Director of Operations. Formerly, Tim served as the Executive Director of the Community of Passionist Partners and Director of the Office of Lay Formation for The Passionist Congregation, Holy Cross Province. He was a member of the NACAR Board and NACAR Treasurer from 2004 to 2009. He continues to share his expertise by offering NACAR workshops and assisting with finances.

Tim holds a Master of Arts in Management from JFK University in Pleasant Hill, California and a Ph.D. in Interdisciplinary Studies from the Union Institute and University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Tim lives in Evanston, Illinois with his wife, Karen, daughter, Vanessa, and grandson, Johnny; is an active musician; and serves on the leadership council of his parish.

2. **Exploring Our Spiritual Gifts: An Introduction to Gifts Discernment** **Jeanne M. Connolly, Ed.D**

God has blessed each of us with spiritual gifts to be used in service to God's people and for the transformation of our world. This introductory workshop is designed to help participants begin to recognize and claim their own spiritual gifts, as well as recognize and affirm the spiritual gifts in others. This session will provide an opportunity for input, reflection, and conversation as we grow together in discovery of our spiritual gifts.

Jeanne M. Connolly serves as the Director of Outreach and Covenant Membership with the Wheaton Franciscan Sisters, as well as the Executive Director of Tau Center, a Spirituality Ministry of the Wheaton Franciscans. She has more than 25 years of management and leadership experience. Jeanne has been a Covenant Member (associate) with the Wheaton Franciscans for more than 15 years. She has served as the Director since 2008. Her guiding development philosophy: philosophy

I believe that as people of God we are all called to be instruments of peace, transformation, hope and healing--each in our own way. We all have a role in ministry and mission, in service to God and one another. Being open to the Spirit, remaining open to personal change, and pursuing opportunities for life-long learning help us to understand and affirm that call "deep within." I seek to provide opportunities for the development of lay ministry leaders and to affirm how each of us lives out the call of the Gospel in our daily lives.

Conference Sessions –

You spoke through your Conference 2010 Evaluations and we listened – networking is one of the most valuable parts of the conference.

Participants will gather in breakout rooms in small groups with a facilitator in each room to help focus the discussions.

Session One – Going Deeper: Mystery of the Journey

Joyce Rupp's presentation will challenge many to reflect on the nature, risks and opportunities fundamental to their journey into the future of "don't know." As associates and vowed members, we seek clarity and understanding of the Spirit's call leading us deeper into association and new transformations. This session will provide venues for gathering and unpacking what was heard from the presentation, and for reflecting on new questions as well. What do we discern is the deepening of the associate-religious relationship in the context of "journey"? What does this mean for our own community? How can we help one another? What voice might NACAR bring to facilitate *A Journey of Blessings*? Come! Share your blessings. Journey further with us!

Session Two – Journey Further with US

This session is intended and custom-made for you! Do you feel a little isolated in your associate ministry? Do you want to know what's going on among other associates and associate groups in your NACAR region of the country? Would you like to meet your NACAR Board member representative, get the scoop about the "New NACAR," and become more involved? What about networking: Do you want to be a part of setting up a regional network with NACAR's help? Have you ever desired to tell your organization's leaders how to better service your needs? Would you like to learn more about NACAR and where it's headed? Whether you are an associate leader or among the thousands of us on the associate journey, plan on attending this session. Come! Share your blessings. Journey further with us!

Travel Information

Air:

O'Hare International Airport (14 miles from hotel)
or
Midway Airport (36 miles from hotel)

www.ohare.com has information about both airports.

Hotel does NOT provide complimentary transportation from either airport. Call hotel for transportation options. 1-847-945-3400

Car:

Complimentary Parking outside lot – no valet parking

Directions from Downtown Chicago to Hotel:

Take 94 West to Route 41. Exit Lake Cook Road from Route 41 (one ramp, lighted intersection exit). Turn left on to Lake Cook Road heading West. The hotel is located approximately 4 miles down on the North East corner of the Lake Cook Road / I-294 intersection. (This route has no tolls)

Directions to Hotel from I-94 Southbound:

Take I-94 heading South to the Lake Cook Road exit (one ramp, lighted intersection exit). Turn left on to Lake Cook Road heading East. Turn left on to Wilmot Road (second traffic light after you exit tollway). First driveway on the left side of street will be the entrance to the Hyatt Deerfield. (This route has several tolls)

Directions to Hotel from I-294 Northbound:

Take I-294 heading North to the Lake Cook Road exit (one ramp, lighted intersection). Turn right on to Lake Cook Road. At Wilmot Road (first lighted intersection after exit) turn left. The first driveway on the left side of street will be the entrance to the Hyatt Deerfield. (This route has several tolls)

Directions to Hotel from O'Hare International Airport:

Take I-294 heading North (towards Milwaukee) 11 miles to Lake Cook Road exit (one ramp, lighted intersection). Turn right on to Lake Cook Road. At Wilmot Road (first lighted intersection after exit) turn left. The first driveway on the left side of street will be the entrance to the Hyatt Deerfield. (This route has several tolls)

Directions to Hotel from Midway Airport:

Take Cicero Avenue to I-55 South (Stevenson Expressway) to I-294 North. Exit I-294 North at Lake Cook Road exit (one ramp, lighted intersection). Turn right on to Lake Cook Road. At Wilmot Road (first lighted intersection after exit) turn left. The first driveway on the left side of street will be the entrance to the Hyatt Deerfield. (This route has several tolls)

Vendors:

NACAR is offering discounted vendor spaces to other not-for-profit organizations. If you are a member of a not-for-profit, or know of someone who might benefit from exhibiting at NACAR's conference, send a name and email address to:

Email: info@nacar.org

Subject Line: Not-for-Profit Vendor

We will send them the necessary information.



Gem Tapes has been contracted to record our Conference. You will be able to purchase CDs of the Keynote presentation and the pre-conference sessions at a discounted price.

Check out their website at www.gemtapes.net to purchase tapes from the 2010 Conference. Don't forget to visit their booth at the conference to place your order.

