



InterCongregational Collaborative Novitiate

ICCN Information Session

Monday, November 7th, 2022

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A Prayer of Gratitude

- We are grateful for the ongoing process of becoming who we are, for the season within, for the great adventure of life that challenges and comforts us at one and the same time.
- We are grateful for God calling us to work with our gifts, grateful that we can be of service and use our talents in a responsible and just way.
- We are grateful that we have the basic necessities of life, that we have the means and the ability to hear the cries of the poor and to respond with our abundance.
- We are grateful for the miracle of life, for the green of our earth, that we still have time to decide the fate of the world by our choices and that we have it within our power to bring a divided world to peace. Amen.

■ Joyce Rupp - adapted

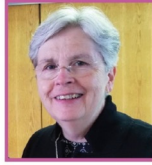
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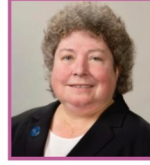
ICCN Interim Advisory Board



Chioma Ahanihu, SLW



Kathryn Clauss, IHM



Ellen Dauwer, SC



Nancy Gerth, SCN



Katherine "Kit" Grey, CSJ



Barbara Hagedorn, SC

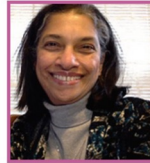


Andrea Koverman, SC



Michelle Leshar, SJ

Joan McGlinchey, MSC



Corrina Thomas, FSPA



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Mission Statement

The mission of the InterCongregational Collaborative Novitiate is to provide a quality novitiate experience with peers for novices from multiple congregations.

The program will facilitate: ongoing discernment in a holistic and mentoring environment that fosters relational, spiritual, intellectual, and intercultural growth and development; nurtures individual charisms and the charism of religious life; and prepares novices to live vowed apostolic religious life.

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1. ICCN Creates Life in Community Which is Respectful of Diversity and Interculturality

We create this through:

- Using resources and practices that facilitate awareness for intercultural and intergenerational community living
- Integrating congregation and religious life charism
- Learning respectful and culturally sensitive communications
- Developing healthy peer relationships among novice from various congregations, cultures and countries
- Participating intentionally in cultural specific activities, events and religious celebrations

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2. Promoting a Sense of Global Sisterhood



- The Novices study and interact with sisters from many congregations and cultures. These experiences expand their understanding of how religious life is lived around the world.
- Novices learn about various collaborative efforts of sisters at national and global levels (Sisters at the UN, Talitha Kum, Leadership Collaborative, LCWR, UISG)

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3. Using an Adult Model of Learning Which Values the Lived Experience of the Novices

- Novices learn to deepen their understanding of ministry through the lens of Pastoral Theological Reflection
- New learnings and life experience are integrated through prayer, personal and group reflection and conversation with the ICCN novice director, leading to new insights, development and self-growth
- Novices participate in leading prayer, reflection days, theological reflection and sharing knowledge

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4. Committing to Collaboration & Communication Between the Novices and the Home Communities



- Monthly communication between director and home formator regarding the novice / program.
- Novices have regular charism classes (bi-monthly) provided by sisters from the home congregation/ Federation
- Novices share their experience via a monthly communication to their home congregations

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5. Living the Current Reality of Religious Life While Paying Attention to and Preparing for the Future as It Emerges

- Study and dialogue about the current and anticipated future of religious life (especially material from LCWR, Giving Voice, and Global Sisters Report, LCWR.)
- Study, reflect on and dialogue about the history of religious life, its essential elements, and prophetic role vis a vis the institutional Church
- Learn ways to cope and thrive in the midst of chaos and great change

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6. Nurturing a Culture of Curiosity and Commitment to Ongoing Formation



- Co-directors model an attitude of openness to conversion and lifelong learning and present themselves as learners along with the novices, while being clear in the role and boundaries.
- Foster practices for life balance, including attention to health, leisure, and creativity
- Present material and input on religious life as part of a lifelong journey

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ICCN Location

Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago
Near Catholic Theological Union (CTU)

Residential Program Conducted in English

Program Timeframe

Begins August
Ends June

Residential Co-directors:

Nancy Gerth SCN & Corrina Thomas FSPA

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Snapshots of ICCN



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Snapshots of ICCN



Chapel



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Snapshots of ICCN



Living Room



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Snapshots of ICCN



Kitchen & Dining Room



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Snapshots of ICCN



Kitchen



Entrance

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Snapshots of ICCN



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Program Components

- Theology Courses (CTU audit or credit)
- Participation in the Intercommunity Novitiate (ICN) in Hyde Park, Chicago
- Continued study and sharing of one's charism
- Other complementary input

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Program Components - *continued*

- On-going Spiritual Direction
- Days of Reflection/Prayer/Retreat/various prayer experiences
- Ministry Experiences with Theological Reflection and Social Analysis
- Intercultural / Interreligious encounters and experiences
- On-going Formation Direction (ICCN Directors)
- ICCN Classes (by ICCN Directors)
- Periodic Evaluation

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Program Components - *continued*

Areas of Study Include

- Spirituality / Scripture
- Human Development
- Community Living Skills
- Communication Skills
- Interculturality
- Vows, Religious Life and Global Sisterhood

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Canonical Standards and the ICCN

According to Canonical Standards :

- The novice is required to live in a house of her institute which has been designated by the major superior
- The transmission, preservation and expression of the charism occurs
- The major superior appoints the novice director, a sister from her institute

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Canonical Standards and the ICCN - *continued*

The ICCN program as it currently exists is not considered the canonical novitiate. However, a congregation can creatively design their novitiate experience. For example:

- Establish a two- year novitiate if one doesn't already exist
- Establish the 10-month ICCN program as part of the congregation's non-canonical portion of its two-year novitiate
- The congregation designates time prior to and / or after the ICCN program as their canonical novitiate. During these times, it would require the novice to live in the institute's novitiate (determined by the major superior).
- This is a pioneering project of which there is no roadmap. We are creating it as we walk the path.

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Civil Incorporation and the ICCN

The ICCN Interim Board will continue to explore all possible options for canonical approval once civil incorporation has been achieved.



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Collaboration with Sending Congregation

- Communication between Intercongregational Collaborative Novitiate Co-directors and the Novice Director/Contact person of the Sending Congregation
- Includes evaluation process, scheduling visits
- Sending Congregation Novice Director/Contact person has regular contact with the novice
- Regular charism class by the Sending Congregation

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Sending Congregation Sharing



Claudia Calzetta SL

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Structure to Support the Mission

- An Interim Advisory Board is in place to oversee the program.
- In the process of establishing a (501 c3) corporation in the State of Illinois to be its own nonprofit organization.
- The InterCongregational Collaborative Novitiate will need to go through the Archdiocese of Chicago in order to be listed in the Official Catholic Directory.

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Finances

Cost of program per novice covers:

- Living expenses (rent, utilities, food, supplies, local transportation)
- Tuition: ICN and CTU (audit)
- Program expenses (spiritual direction, retreats, supplies, speakers)
- Salary of co-directors
- Sending congregation covers: counseling, travel, personal allowance, health insurance

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Prerequisites

Assessments and Certificates (documents on file with Congregation)

- Valid form of identification (state I.D., driver's license, passport, visa,)
- Birth certificate
- Baptismal certificate
- Confirmation certificate
- Legal clearance/background check
- Academic Transcripts
- Summary of Psychological Evaluation by licensed psychologist
- Record of Health Assessment by licensed healthcare professional

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Prerequisites - *continued*

Formation

- Experience and understanding of the process of discernment with her congregation
- Satisfactory completion of pre-novitiate and earlier stages of initial formation

Spirituality

- Participation in and basic understanding of theological reflection, especially with regard to ministry, community and life experiences
- Participation in spiritual direction (minimum of 6 months)
- Completion of at least one 8-day retreat

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Prerequisites - *continued*

Community Living

- Successful completion of one year (minimum) living in community in the Sending Congregation
- Regular preparation and facilitation of communal prayer with increasing ease and confidence
- Proficiency in the English language as related to community living, prayer and study

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Prerequisites - *continued*

Congregational and Religious Life

- Basic understanding of the vows, religious life and the charism and history of her own congregation
- Capacity to give a presentation on the history, charism, mission of her congregation

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Application Process

- Consent from the major superior
- Involvement of applicant and sending Congregation's formation personnel
- Includes personal interview with co-directors

Application Packet

- Autobiography, self-assessment, records, psychological evaluation summary, appraisal by sending Congregation formation personnel

Acceptance Packet

- Health information, agreement of rights and responsibilities of all parties, financial commitment

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An Invitation to Be Bold & Creative

Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: "We have always done it this way."

"I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task of rethinking the goals, structures, style and methods of evangelization in their respective communities."

-Pope Francis, "The Joy of the Gospel," *Evangelii Gaudium*

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Program Support

Ways congregations can support the program

- Send novices!
- Share the good news
- Donate to the program for operational expenses
- Follow us on our website

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Thank You



We are *grateful* for your interest. Thank you for learning more about this initiative.

To learn more go to:

- www.collaborative-novitiate.com
- or
- Email to: directorsiccn@gmail.com

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Questions and Comments?

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