



2017 Annual Educational Conference
National Conference of Veterans Affairs Catholic Chaplains
“Pastoral Care and Bio-Ethics Rooted in a Spirituality of Imperfection”
October 9-13, 2017
Franciscan Renewal Center
Scottsdale, Arizona

June 27, 2017

Dear NCVACC Members and VA Catholic Chaplain Brothers!

I am pleased to write to you regarding our 2017 NCVACC Annual Educational Conference. The theme for this year’s conference is “Pastoral Care and Bio-Ethics Rooted in a Spirituality of Imperfection.” We have experts in the field who will be presenting at the conference.

Our conference this year is to be held at the Franciscan Retreat Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. The conference begins Monday October 9th with the Liturgy of the Eucharist at 4PM, and ends Thursday evening on October 12th. Please plan your travel days to be Monday and Friday for the conference. Please note that we will have our Membership Meeting on Monday October 9th, at 7:15PM.

Nestled in the lush desert valley at the base of majestic Camelback Mountain in Scottsdale, Arizona, the Franciscan Renewal Center (also known as the Casa) is a world-renowned retreat center and conference facility for non-profit organizations. A quick 20 minutes from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, still a world away from the frenzy of the city, providing abundant opportunities for clarity, focus and solitude on 25 pristine acres. <https://thecasa.org/>

Unlike previous years, there is no longer a requirement for ACES pre-registration. Included in this Registration Packet is critical information for the entire registration process. The registration information will also be on our website: www.ncvacc.net. **Funding is tight in the VA, so please plan that your travel may not be funded. AMS requires attendance for continuation of your VA Endorsement, despite whether your station funds it or not. Please plan accordingly.**

Fraternally,

Reverend Father Rashid Peter Francis
President NCVACC



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INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TRAVELER

- A. Fill out the “Conference Registration” form completely.**
- B. Mail in your completed Conference Registration Form, along with payment by check, or contact Joseph Westfall to process a credit card for payment. (Registration form and payment for Tuition, meals, and lodging must be received by September 15, 2016.)**
- C. Unlike previous years where you booked your own hotel room, this year lodging will be paid directly to the NCVACC. There are 81 rooms available at The Casa: of the 81, 8 have one bed; 2 are handicap accessible, with one bed. The remaining 71 rooms have two beds, which can be booked as single or double occupancy; 2 of these rooms are handicap accessible. Please note if you are sharing a room with someone and/or you require a handicap accessible room on your registration form.**
- D. In the event all rooms are booked at The Casa, members will be sent a listing of hotels with whom The Casa has made arrangements for discounted rates. This will require you securing transportation to and from conference site. Commuter rates for food will apply to those staying in hotels, or those commuting to the conference.**
- E. All registrants, whether staying at the Casa, hotel, or commuting must pay for meals; dietary requests will be honored, provided advance requests are made.**
- F. If you have not yet paid your membership dues by AUGUST 1, 2017 the Non-Member rate for tuition and meals will apply.**
- G. You need to pay for your tuition, lodging and meals directly to NCVACC.**
- H. You need to seek “reimbursement” from your station for tuition, OR if your station pays by credit card at a date after the deadline for registration, you will be refunded your tuition charge at the conference gathering.**
- I. Information regarding transportation is included as a separate page in this packet.**
- J. Information regarding any organized outings on Wednesday afternoon, will be sent out separately, at a later date.**
- K. Contact me at joseph.westfall@va.gov with questions.**

The National Conference of Veterans Affairs Catholic Chaplains
2017 Annual Educational Conference Educational Schedule
"Pastoral Care and Bio-Ethics Rooted in a Spirituality of Imperfection"
October 9-13, 2017
Franciscan Renewal Center
Scottsdale, Arizona
(16 Hours Continuing Education Credit)

Monday, October 9

8:00 AM Travel Day for Participants/Registration
6:00 PM Dinner
7:15 PM NCVACC Membership Meeting
8:15 PM Conference ends for the day.

Tuesday, October 10

8:00 AM Breakfast
8:50 AM Welcome and Greetings
9:00 AM Conference Begins
Father Tony Ciorra
"In weakness is strength" The components for a spirituality of imperfection
10:00 AM Break
10:15 AM Father Tony, Cont'd: "In our struggles we learn compassion."
12:15 AM Lunch
1:00 PM Father Tony, Cont'd: "God is in the Questions."
2:30 PM Break
2:45 PM Father Tony, Cont'd: "The Church is a Field Hospital."
3:45 PM Break
4:00 PM Father Tony, Cont'd
5:15 PM Conference ends for the day.

Wednesday, October 11

8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Conference Begins
Dr. John DiCamello from the National Bioethics Center
"Bio-Ethics: Guidance in an Imperfect World"
10:30 AM Break
10:45 AM Dr. John, Cont'd
12:45 PM Lunch. Conference ends for the day.

Thursday, October 12

8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM Dr. John DiCamello (Part II)
"Bio-Ethics: Guidance in an Imperfect World"
10:30 AM Break
10:45 AM Dr. John, Cont'd
12:00 PM Lunch
1:00 PM VA and AMS Updates and Education:
Items of Interest to VA Catholic Chaplains in the field
-Archbishop Timothy Broglio
-Bishop Richard Higgins
-Father John Milewski, Associate Director VA NCC
4:00 PM Conference Ends.

Friday, October 13

8:00 AM Departure (Travel Day)

SuperShuttle

Use your Discount Code YAKAX to receive your special fare of \$15.00 per person each way if booked online or mobile app. Advance reservations are not required for arrival (but encouraged) into Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport, as there are curbside representatives at Terminals 2 & 3 or the SuperShuttle Inside Counter in Terminal 4.

Arrivals:

- 1) Claim your luggage.
- 2) If you don't have advance reservations, please advise the SuperShuttle customer representative you need to be transported to the Franciscan Renewal Center in Paradise Valley. If you have a reservation, either booking through the mobile app or website by pulling up, you will receive a text to follow the instructions. Drivers accept cash or credit cards in the vehicle if a "prepayment" has not been arranged.
- 3) For Terminal **2 & 3**: Proceed outside Baggage Claim area to the outer island. The SuperShuttle agent is near the sign marked "**VAN SERVICE.**"
- 4) Terminal **4**: Proceed to door #8 by the baggage claim carousel #2. Check in with the Customer Service Representative at the SuperShuttle counter.

To take advantage of your discount (**YAKAX**) to the **Franciscan Renewal Center and receive the special fare of \$15.00 per person, each direction**, you can choose between the following channels:

- Book online at www.supershuttle.com
- Book on the SuperShuttle mobile app
- Call 1-800-BLUEVAN (258-3826)

Departures:

Return reservations are required at least 24 hours in advance. Please call SuperShuttle at 800-258-3826 or go online at www.supershuttle.com. When you place your cell phone number and email into the reservation, you will receive notifications indicating where to go.



ExecuCar is our private, luxury black car and SUV division providing highly personalized, courteous, reliable service to Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport. Reservations can be booked at www.ExecuCar.com or by calling 1-800-410-4444.

ExecuCar can now be booked through the SuperShuttle app as well. Download the SuperShuttle app for iPhone or Android devices to book Shuttles, Black Cars, or SUVs at one simple location.