



**2018 Annual Educational Conference
National Conference of Veterans Affairs Catholic Chaplains
“Building Spiritual Strength in Theory and Practice”
October 15-19, 2018
Hilton New Orleans
333 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, 70130**

June 25, 2018

Dear NCVACC Members and VA Catholic Chaplain Brothers!

I am pleased to write to you regarding our 2018 NCVACC Annual Educational Conference. The theme for this year’s conference is “Building Spiritual Strength in Theory and Practice.” We have experts in the field who will be presenting at the conference.

Our conference this year is to be held at the Hilton Hotel, St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans, Louisiana. The conference begins Monday October 15th with the Liturgy of the Eucharist at 4PM, and ends Thursday evening on October 18th, with our closing Eucharist and Banquet. Please plan your travel days to be Monday and Friday for the conference. Our annual membership meeting will be held on Thursday morning, October 18th.

The Hilton Hotel, St. Charles Avenue is a stunning 1920s' French Quarter hotel, it is situated just a few minutes from the vibrant French Quarter and Arts District. The Hilton New Orleans/St. Charles Avenue hotel was inducted into the Historic Hotels of America in November 2014.

Please follow the “instructions for the traveler” on the next page, as this year the process for registration, lodging and meals is different than last year. Please also note that if you do NOT stay at the host hotel, your tuition is slightly higher, in order to cover commuting attendees expenses. The registration information will also be on our website: www.ncvacc.net.

As in past years, 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. Mail in your completed Conference Registration Form, along with payment by check. (Registration form and payment for Tuition and meals must be received by September 15, 2018.)**
- B. In order to keep down expenses, payment by check is preferred. Contact Joseph Westfall to process a credit card for payment.**
- C. There is a block of rooms available at a discounted price at the host hotel for attendees. YOU MUST CONFIRM YOUR RESERVATION BEFORE SEPTEMBER 17, 2018. In order to book a NCVACC rate for your room, click on this internet link:
https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hi/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=M SYFQHF&spec_plan=NCVACC&arrival=20181014&departure=20181020&cid=OM.VW.HILT ONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT**
- D. If you have not yet paid your membership dues by July 15, 2018 the Non-Member rate for tuition and meals will apply.**
- E. You need to pay for your tuition and meals directly to NCVACC.**
- F. With the exception of the Thursday evening banquet meal, all other meals will be “On Your Own.” The hotel has a large restaurant, and other eating establishments are within walking distance to the hotel.**
- G. 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.**
- H. Flights into Louis Armstrong International airport is likely your best airport option. You will need to arrange for your own transportation between the airport and the hotel, whether via taxi, Uber, Lyft or shuttle. Keep in mind, there IS a charge to park at the hotel.**
- I. The schedule below is for your education and travel office. It only includes it only includes “education” items. Mass will be scheduled daily, and will be published in the full conference schedule later.**
- J. Contact joseph.westfall@va.gov with questions. Email is preferred.**

2018 Annual Educational Conference Educational Calendar
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Monday, October 15

8:00 AM Travel Day for Participants/Registration
5:00 PM Reception
6:15 PM Dinner on Your Own

Tuesday, October 16

8:00 AM Breakfast on Your Own
9:00 AM Conference Begins
Dr. Jeanette I. Harris & Timothy J. Usset: "Building Spiritual Strength, Theory & Foundations, Session 1"
10:00 AM Break
10:15 AM Dr. Jeanette I. Harris & Timothy J. Usset "Building Spiritual Strength, Theory & Foundations, Session 2"
12:15 PM Lunch on Your Own
1:30 PM Dr. Harris & Fr. Usset, Cont'd: "Building Spiritual Strength, Preparation, Logistics and Practice"
2:30 PM Break
3:00 PM Dr. Harris & Fr. Usset, Cont'd: "Building Spiritual Strength, Practice and Technique 1"
5:00 PM Conference ends for the day.

Wednesday, October 17

8:00 AM Breakfast on Your Own
9:00 AM Conference Begins
Dr. Harris & Fr. Usset, Cont'd: "Building Spiritual Strength, Practice and Technique 2")
10:00 AM Break
10:15 AM Dr. Harris & Fr. Usset, Cont'd: "Building Spiritual Strength, Practice and Technique 3)
12:30 PM Lunch on Your Own. Conference ends for the day.

Thursday, October 18

8:00 AM Breakfast on Your Own
9:00 AM NCVACC Annual Membership Meeting
10:00 AM Break
10:30 AM Items of Interest: "Essential Concerns of Catholic Chaplains from VA NCC"
Director, VA National Chaplain Center
12:00 PM Lunch on Your Own
1:30 PM VA and AMS Updates and Education:
Items of Interest to VA Catholic Chaplains in the field
-Archbishop Timothy Broglio
-Bishop Richard Higgins
4:00 PM Conference Ends.

Friday, October 19

8:00 AM Departure (Travel Day)