50th Anniversary

1968 - 2018

NFPC AND THE U.S. PRIESTHOOD
LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD

APRIL 23-26, 2018

MILLENIUM KNICKERBOCKER HOTEL

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

NFPC
NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRIESTS COUNCILS
2018 NFPC CONVOCATION

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April 23, 2018

Dear Brothers,

Welcome to Chicago for the 50th Anniversary Convocation of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils. May your visit to our dynamic city and Archdiocese be a memorable experience.

For fifty years, the NFPC has helped create communion, brotherhood and solidarity among bishops and priests. You gather to take up the topic “Looking Back – Looking Forward.” As you do so, let me suggest that you take time to fully recognize the contributions that NFPC has made, not just in creating priests’ councils, but in many areas which support the lives and well-being of priests. Your work has made a difference and you continue to enhance how priests and bishops work together to constantly renew the Church. Take pride in this.

Here in the Archdiocese of Chicago, we are undertaking Renew My Church, our multi-year pastoral planning process to make disciples, build communities and inspire witness. At the heart of our success will be a reinvigorated presbyterate, an aspiration I know you fully share. We are taking up this initiative in response to the call of Pope Francis to encounter the presence of the Lord in the world and the Church with renewed vigor.

May your gathering of priests from throughout the country be a grace-filled moment of encounter offering gratitude for the past, but even more so, inspiring zeal for priestly ministry in the Church of the 21st century. As you mark your 50th Anniversary, I pray that your convocation will be an opportunity for the NFPC to share more deeply in the communion we have in Christ, in a way that strengthens the brotherhood of our ministry as priests, ever witnessing to the solidarity we share in proclaiming the Gospel. Be assured of my best wishes, gratitude and prayers for you and the work of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils. Enjoy springtime in Chicago!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Cardinal Blase J. Cupich
Archbishop of Chicago

National Federation of Priests Councils
50th Anniversary Convocation

Dear Brothers and Friends in Christ,

I cannot believe that it has been 50 years since the NFPC was founded!

It’s a great time to once again gather in the city of our founding to celebrate all that the NFPC has done, is doing and is looking forward to in the future. From those who have been here from the beginning to those who are joining us for the first time - welcome!

This gathering is for me the high point of my year. It is a chance to renew my friendships with my brother priests, share my triumphs and challenges and to simply be with people who “get me.” No one knows the life of a priest except another priest.

A lot has changed in the last 50 years - in the world, in the United States, in the Church. The NFPC has endeavored to keep up with those changes. In short, we are not the same organization that was formed all those years ago. We have adapted to the changing needs of priests and councils over the years and we will continue to do so into the future.

I am so glad that you are able to join us as we reminisce, look at our current situation and chart a course to the future.


Rev. Anthony E. Culver
President
**CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS**

1968-1977

1968

**NFPC Constitution Preamble**

We priests of the United States of America, of Western and Eastern Rites, united in our respective councils, cognizant of the spirit of co-responsibility expressed in the Second Vatican Council by which we share with the bishops the work of providing creatively for the pastoral care of the People of God, and cognizant of our responsibility with the whole Church of showing our concern for the entire community in which we live, and desiring to collaborate on a national level in the realization of these responsibilities, do hereby establish a federation of priests’ councils for the United States of America.

**1969**

**Vol. 1, No. 1, Priests’ Forum Planning for Change – Need for Hope, NFPC President, Rev. Patrick J. O’Malley**

In these days of critical self-analysis—some of it most healthy, much of it quite ineffective—the NFPC has to examine ways of making Church ever more present and meaningful in the world. We have to be apostles of hope and optimism and reality. Hope and optimism presume that things are possible.

1971

**The Moment of Truth:**

**NFPC Statement on the Priesthood**

The moment of truth has arrived for us, the delegates of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils of the United States of America, and for those whom we represent. There may never be another moment like this within our lifetime. We now wish to speak of our hopes and our concerns and our lives, within the Church and the world of today.

**1977**

**March 1977, President’s Report, Rev. James E. Ratigan**

Since its birth on May 20, 1968, the NFPC has been a bridge between the grassroots priests and the national leadership in the US Catholic Church. Through the federation’s focus on ministry, it will continue assisting priests to feel more comfortable with their own developing role, and to appreciate and cooperate with the gifts and talents of others in ministry.
1979

June 1974 issue of Priests USA as reported in Priests in Council: Initiatives Toward a Democratic Church, Fr. Francis E. Brown, 1979

NFPC was born at a time when many priests would have been punished for publishing an article, writing a public letter, or making a public statement—on any topic—without first obtaining permission from the chancery. NFPC played a significant role in permitting the priest of America to contribute his ideas and energies to the policies of the American Catholic Church.

1981

January 1981 Memorandum, from Fr. Neil McCAulled, president

Although the NFPC, in its totality, is partly a service organization and also partly a professional organization, it is primarily a collegial organization—and the House of Delegates is a collegial gathering!

1985

NFPC Study Paper, Excerpts of comments on 1983 Revised Code of Canon Law in reference to Presbyteral Councils, (p. 4)

The Code gives a preeminent role to the presbyteral council in the consultation process of a diocese. While the priests’ senate advocated collaboration, the presbyteral council is to become the primary collaborator. The heart of the NFPC rests in its representation of councils which, indeed, represents priests.

1987

Touchstone, Vol. 3, No. 1, “If Priests Could Open Up Their Hearts”; Fr. Frank McNulty, on the occasion of His Holiness Pope John Paul II’s 2nd Apostolic Visit to the United States

If priests could open up their hearts and tell you of their priesthood, they would speak of social justice. As we try to take courageous stands, it helps to know how close these questions are to your own heart and to hear your strong words. In a climate where we must be times be counter-cultural, we are heartened and strengthened by the episcopal conference of this country. Our bishops have not backed away from the complex and controversial issues of social justice.
1988

Procedures for bringing Resolutions to House of Delegates changed

Resolutions brought before the House of Delegates, as a Standard Procedure, must be recommended by the National Board, e.g., Annual Budget. Issues emerging from the floor go first to the National Board before being presented to the House of Delegates for a vote.

1993

Project Future Directions – Pre-Retreat survey by J. Patrick Murphy, CM

Organizations have life cycles. I suggest that NFPC is on the verge of moving through a development or growth stage. I see NFPC as facing the opportunity of moving from controlled and at least somewhat modest vision of itself to a more active stage of modest expansion and renewed purpose.

1995

NFPC launches first Institutional Advancement effort with direct appeal to priests and friends of NFPC. Fr. Nick Rice at helm

1997

Interview with Fr. Don Wolf upon taking office as president of NFPC

So the NFPC is the organization that promotes and stands convicted of the truth that we are priests best when we are priests together, we minister best when we minister together, we are believers best when we are believers together.

50 YEARS OF SERVING PRIESTS AND PRIEST’S COUNCILS

1988–1997
## NFPC HIGHLIGHTS

### 1998–2007

#### 2000
At the turn of the millennium NFPC launches four major publications efforts:
- First Five Years of the Priesthood, Evolving Visions of the Priesthood (a longitudinal study of priests and priesthood begun in the early 70s), Stewards of God’s Mysteries: Priestly Spirituality in a Changing Church, and International Priests in America.

#### 2002–2003
NFPC responds to clergy sexual abuse crisis
The priests of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils of the United States wish to express our deep sadness at the suffering experienced by our children and our people at the hand of brother priests and bishops... We the priests of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils of the United States dedicate and commit ourselves to Gospel Truth, to transparent lives, to protection, to protection of rights in a society of justice and peace, and to those reforms that will allow the grace of God to pour forth from the life of the Church in the world once again. (Msgr. Robert Silva, president)

#### 2006
NFPC House of Delegates votes to approve Constitution and By-Laws revision
At the 2006 NFPC Convention in Minneapolis, the House of Delegates voted to approve the following revisions in the NFPC Constitution:
1. National Board to become the Council of Directors
2. That the Board of Directors composed of nine members be chosen by the Council of Directors
3. Suppress the position of Executive Director
4. Establish the role of Chairman of the Board
5. Hiring of the President by the Board of Directors for one five-year term

#### 2007
President’s Address to NFPC Convention
As we prepare for the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Summit in 2008, I find myself drawn to reclaim NFPC’s voice as leader and prophet in challenging times. The Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership calls us to be attentive and alert to read the signs of the times and to be responsive... Communities are actively seeking priests to carve out their niche in this complex and changing landscape we call ministry. (Rev. Richard Vega)
**2008–2009**

**NFPC hosted National Ministry Summit with five Catholic Partners**, celebrating completion of the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project

Convocation theme for 2009, “The Parish of Tomorrow – Today,” was developed based on results of the 2008 summit. Convocation dialogue focused on a national conversation with committed men and women who provide pastoral ministry during a time of challenge and opportunity.

**2010–2012**

**President Vega’s Welcome Letter:**

“2010 Convention theme: ‘The Call to Holiness and Wholeness’ flows from our Holy Father’s call to dedicate 2010 as the ‘Year for Priests.’

Our gathering this year provides us with an opportunity to deepen the conversation among ourselves as to the discernment, call, grace and blessing of our priesthood.”

NFPC launched the Priest Labor Initiative in 2012 with the Archdiocese of Chicago Priest, Fr. Clete Kiley. The measure is a collaborative effort of priests, bishops, scholars and supporters committed to advocating for workers, especially the most vulnerable.

**2013–2015**

**President Cutcher addresses 2013 Convocation; Pope’s visit to US inspires 2015 theme**

Using Pope Francis’ simplistic lifestyle and humility in service as an example, Fr. Tony Cutcher emphasized the need for priests to actively work on every aspect of their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being in order to be most effective in their ministry. Pope Francis’ visit to the US for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia formed the basis for the 2015 Convocation theme. The assembly prayed, reflected, and exchanged dialogue on their role as “Father, Brother, Son - The Priest in the Family of God.”

**2016**

**Adopted changes to Prior Labor Initiative**

Executive Committee of NFPC signed the agreement with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) to serve as a trusted partner for the CARA’s national Priests’ well-being survey. This union provided the opportunity to develop a survey targeted specifically for priests.

**2017**

**NFPC increases collaborative efforts:**

NFPC participated in gathering of National Collaborative of Priest Life Organizations and Societies that Minister to Priests. Also published National Diocesan Survey: Salary and Benefits for Priests and Lay Personnel based on data gathered by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). Survey was jointly commissioned by the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA) and the NFPC.

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**CHURCH HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2013-2014**
  - **Pope Francis and Lutheran Church:** Joint Declaration of Pope Francis and the President of the World Council of Churches, September 11, 2013
  - **Pope Francis releases “Laudato Si’”**
  - **Pope Francis’ historical visit to the US and UN**

- **2014-2015**
  - **Pope Francis visits Cuba**
  - **Papal visits to the US and UN**

- **2015-2016**
  - **Pope Francis visits to Iran and Egypt**
  - **Pope Francis’ visit to the US and UN**

- **2016-2017**
  - **Pope Francis visits to the US and UN**
  - **Pope Francis’ visit to the US and UN**

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**SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2017**
  - **International Conference on Catholic Social Thought and the World Economic**

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**NFPC HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2013**
  - **NFPC participates in gathering of National Collaborative of Priest Life Organizations and Societies that Minister to Priests**

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**50 YEARS OF SERVING PRIESTS AND PRIEST’S COUNCILS**

**2008–2017**

- **2008**
  - **NFPC hosted National Ministry Summit with five Catholic Partners**

- **2009**
  - **Initiated in-house printing of Income Tax Guide for Clergy**

- **2010**
  - **Published ‘Unity Among Us: NACPA and the NFPC’**

- **2011**
  - **Published ‘Same Call, Different Flows’**

- **2012**
  - **Launched “Labor is Worthy of the Her – 2013”**

- **2013**
  - **Pope Francis visits Cuba**

- **2014**
  - **Pope Francis visits to Iran and Egypt**

- **2015**
  - **Pope Francis visits to the US and UN**

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**PAPAL VISITS**

- **Pope Francis**
  - **Visit to the US and UN**

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **2017**
  - **Convocation Theme – Revising Up with Pope Francis: Bringing the Message to Parish Life**

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**HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2017**
  - **50th Anniversary of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils (NFPC)**

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**HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS**

- **2017**
  - **50th Anniversary of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils (NFPC)**
MISSION:
The National Federation of Priests’ Councils serves the communion, brotherhood and solidarity of bishops, presbyterates and priests.

VISION:
Flowing from our mission statement we can discern these vision statements:
- We gather bishops, presbyterates and priests for communion, brotherhood and solidarity.
- We build bridges.
- We provide models for communion, brotherhood and solidarity.
- We affirm each other in the shared priesthood of Jesus Christ.
- We are solution-focused.

HISTORY:
NFPC was established in 1968 as the first national organization dealing with the lives and ministry of priests. Representatives from the Vatican II mandated, newly formed priests’ councils met in Chicago with a desire to share thoughts and best practices, and invited all other councils to join them, forming the National Federation of Priests’ Councils. NFPC works through priests’ councils to support and connect the brotherhood of priests throughout the entire U.S.

NFPC has been at work making a positive difference since its establishment. Many of the services in place today that affect bishops and priests in their lives and work are present because of the prompting, sharing of resources, and advocacy of NFPC, including: due process, priest personnel assignment, a code of professional ministerial accountability, research on priestly life and ministry, continuing education, salary compensation, tax and retirement information, plus much more.

Several organizations have come into being as off-shoots of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils, the two most prominent being the National Association for Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA) and the National Organization for Continuing Education of Roman Catholic Clergy (NOCERCC).
MEMBERSHIP:

According to the NFPC Constitution, all arch/diocesan priests’ councils representing the priests of the local church are members of NFPC. A council which supports NFPC financially is considered an active member council. A council which does not is considered an inactive member council. Just as in local parishes where a proportionately small number of dedicated members contribute financially, so does NFPC rely on financial support from its active members to be able to continue to serve the entire U.S. presbyterate. Membership in NFPC is not a ‘goods or services’ consumeristic approach. Active membership in NFPC supports the overall mission of the organization and keeps the services and connection offered by NFPC alive and effective. Active membership in NFPC is an investment in the strengthening of the Catholic presbyterate in the United States.

SUPPORT AND CONNECTION:

To reach our overall goal of the communion, brotherhood and solidarity of all U.S. bishops and priests, NFPC provides this specific assistance:

- Advocacy to the USCCB for priests’ issues and needs as a contributing member on the Committee for Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations
- Research on the presbyterate for the presbyterate: longitudinal studies of priests, plus, compensation statistics, and a yearly income tax guide for clergy
- Annual National Convocation of Priests – top level speakers, prayer, learning, idea exchange, and relaxation time, bringing together priests and bishops from across the U.S.
- National clearinghouse for research assistance, questions about other arch/diocesan services and programs, speaker recommendations, and other requests
- Council Notes - priests’ councils’ minutes edited, (no personal or private information), allowing connection for ideas, resources, and solutions to common concerns
- Four quality programs for growth: Priests and Bishops in Council, Priest Personnel Board Review, Catholic Leadership 360°, Tax and Retirement
- A weekly Catholic news and information e-letter, NFPC This Week
- Touchstone periodical, mailed to every U.S. priest, especially to serve and connect priests who do not regularly access the Internet
- Priest-Labor Initiative – bishops and priests, committed to standing with and advocating for workers, especially the most vulnerable

NFPC is always open to requests from priests or bishops with recommendations for additional services to better support or connect the U.S. presbyterate.

SUMMARY:

With the help of many supportive dioceses, NFPC has served presbyterates across the U.S. for over fifty years, providing priests a national organization to speak their concerns, to represent their needs and interests in multiple forums, to develop resources for their pastoral use, to link their ministry with other key ministries in the church and to maintain a crosscurrent of communication essential to the life and work of bishops and priests today. With prayer and continued support, NFPC is ready to proceed in this service to all priests, bishops, and presbyterates, so together all can celebrate and more fully live the shared priesthood of Jesus Christ. More information is available at nfpc.org.

THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PRIESTS’ COUNCILS

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National Offices: 333 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 1114
Chicago, IL 60601-4002
THE MOST REVEREND WILTON D. GREGORY, S.L.D.

Presentation: The One and the Many: Priests and the Local Presbyterate “50 years after the establishment of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils, you should rejoice and take some pride at the spirit of fraternity that Priests’ Councils have been able to help develop across the country. I would like to reflect on this development and to raise some of the challenges that we still face as bishops and priests working together for the mission of the Church and the development of closer unity among those who share the Ordained Priesthood of Jesus Christ in our local Churches.”

Born December 7, 1947 in Chicago to Wilton Sr. and Ethel Duncan Gregory, Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory attended St. Carthage Grammar School, where he converted to Catholicism. He attended Quigley Preparatory Seminary South, Niles College (now St. Joseph’s College Seminary) of Loyola University and St. Mary of the Lake Seminary. He was ordained a priest for the Archdiocese of Chicago on May 9, 1973. Three years after his ordination he began graduate studies at the Pontifical Liturgical Institute (Sant’ Anselmo) in Rome. There he earned his doctorate in sacred liturgy in 1980.

After having served as an associate pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview, IL, as a member of the faculty of St. Mary of the Lake Seminary in Mundelein and as a master of ceremonies to Cardinals John Cody and Joseph Bernardin, he was ordained an auxiliary bishop of Chicago on December 13, 1983. On February 10, 1994, he was installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Belleville, IL where he served for the next eleven years. On December 9, 2004, Pope John Paul II appointed Bishop Gregory as the sixth archbishop of the Archdiocese of Atlanta. He was installed on January 17, 2005.


Presentation: A Band of Joyful Missionary Disciples: International Priests Serving our Multicultural Church “In the light of the New Evangelization, this presentation will explore the blessings and the opportunities our fellow international priests bring to the unique makeup of the multicultural U.S. Church.”

Bishop Jose Arturo Cepeda Escobedo, STL. STD, is from San Luis Potosí, SLP, Mexico, where he received elementary and high school education in Catholic schools, then completed a year at the Archdiocesan Seminary Guadalupano Josefino. After moving with his family to San Antonio, Texas, he continued his seminary studies at Our Lady of the Lake University and obtained a degree in Religious Studies with a specialty in Psychology from the College Seminary of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Returning to San Antonio’s Assumption Seminary he received the degree of Master in Divinity and was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop Patricio Flores on June 1, 1996.

In 2001 he obtained a Master in Biblical Theology from the University of St. Mary’s. While he was assigned as parochial vicar at the Cathedral of San Fernando, he traveled to Rome to study at the Pontifical University “St. Thomas Aquinas, Angelicum,” where he obtained a licentiate and doctorate degrees in Sacred Theology (STL, STD).

Returning to San Antonio in 2005, he taught at Assumption Seminary and served as Vocation Director and Faculty member of the Transitional Ministry Formation Program for newly ordained priests. He was named Vice Rector of Assumption Seminary in 2009. In 2010 he was installed as rector of the Seminary, where he served until his appointment as Titular Bishop of Tagase and Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, May 5, 2011.

Bishop Cepeda currently serves as a member of the following USCCB Committees and Subcommittees: Committee on Catholic Education, Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, Subcommittee on Certification for Ecclesial Ministry and Service, and the Subcommittee on Hispanic Affairs. He also serves as Episcopal Liaison for the Instituto Fe y Vida and the Federación de Institutos Pastorales (FIP), and the National Federation of Priests’ Councils (NFPC).
# 2018 Convocation Schedule

## April 23, Monday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – Noon</td>
<td>Exhibitor Set-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Exhibits Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm – 10:00 pm</td>
<td>Chapel Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30 – 3:00 pm</td>
<td>Gathering for Mission Pre-Convocation Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00 pm – 5:00 pm</td>
<td>Council of Consultants Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:30 pm – 6:30 pm</td>
<td>Opening Reception, Welcome, Introductions</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 pm – 7:30 pm</td>
<td>“Reminiscing” Historical Review Panel and Interaction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 pm – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Fr. Clete Kiley, Msgr. Rich Hynes, Fr. David Brinkmoeller and Alan Szafraniec</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 pm – 11:00 pm</td>
<td>Hospitality Room Open</td>
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## April 24, Tuesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am – 10:00 pm</td>
<td>Chapel Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Exhibits Open</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 4:00 pm</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 10:00 am</td>
<td>PLENARY SESSION</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30 am – 10:45 am</td>
<td>Sr. Katarina Schuth</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 – 11:55</td>
<td>PLENARY SESSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:55 am – Noon</td>
<td>Bishop Arturo Cepeda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon – 1:00 pm</td>
<td>Catholic Leadership 360°  Dominick Perri</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30 pm – 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Lunch – Tables with Exhibitors available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm – 2:45 pm</td>
<td>Break</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 pm – 3:45 pm</td>
<td>SPECIAL PRESENTATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:45 pm – 4:15 pm</td>
<td>Fr. Don Wolf, Topic, Blessed Stanley Rother</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## April 25, Wednesday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am – 10:00 am</td>
<td>Chapel Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 am – 8:00 am</td>
<td>Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Registration Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Exhibits Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am – 9:30 am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## April 26, Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00 am – Noon</td>
<td>Chapel Open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:30 am – 8:00 am</td>
<td>Eucharist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am – 9:00 am</td>
<td>Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Morning Prayer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am – 11:00 am</td>
<td>PLENARY SESSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Expression of gratitude and Departure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Presentation: Looking Forward: Ministry Preparation for Priests in the Church of the 21st Century  “Ministry in the life of the Church during the past half century has evolved and developed according to the conditions of the people being served and the culture in which it exists. Since Vatican II, awareness of the close connection between Church and society has called forth creative response from priests and others serving the needs of the faithful. This talk examines the requirements of preparation for priests who will serve the Church as it exists in reality these days and also take into account the impact of secular culture on the Church today.”

Sr. Katarina Schuth has been a member of the Sisters of St. Francis, Rochester, MN, from 1960 to the present. Her career as a faculty member in higher education spans four decades. Since 1991 she held an Endowed Professorship for the Social Scientific Study of Religion at The Saint Paul Seminary School of Divinity at the University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN.

In 2017 she retired from teaching, but continues to do research, write, and give presentations. Along with numerous articles, she has written six books on church life and well over 100 articles and book chapters. Her most recent book, Seminary Formation: Recent History, Current Circumstances, and New Directions, published in 2016 by Liturgical Press, covers the last thirty years of education and formation for ministry. She also authored Priestly Ministry in Multiple Parishes, published by the same press in 2006, for which she surveyed and interviewed a thousand priests who are pastoring more than one parish.

Presentation: Re-configuring the Priesthood in Times of Epochal Change  “The ministerial priesthood is at the forefront of ecclesial reform today and is being invited to develop spiritually and to reconfigure itself in ways that reflect its missiological and evangelizing character in a time of unprecedented ‘epochal’ change. With more than forty years as pastor, writer, and theologian—and building on the NFPC’s central role in the lives of priests and the local church over five decades—Father Deck will discuss the emerging vision of the priesthood in an extroverted Church that is at once evangelizing and being evangelized, and siempre en salida, that is, ‘always reaching out.’”

Jesuit Father Allan Figueroa Deck is currently Rector of the Jesuit Community and Distinguished Scholar of Pastoral Studies at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. He holds doctoral degrees in Missiology and in Latin American Studies. As a newly ordained priest he served as administrator of a barrio parish and as first diocesan director of Hispanic Ministry. He taught pastoral theology and Latino studies at the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University where he established the Instituto Hispano.

Father Deck was a co-founder and first president of the Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS) and of the National Catholic Council for Hispanic Ministry (NCCHM). In 1997 he established the Loyola Institute for Spirituality in Orange, CA and served as its first Executive Director. In 2008 he was named first Executive Director of the Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church at the USCCB. Father Deck has authored or edited nine volumes on pastoral ministry, faith and culture, and spirituality. His latest book is titled Francis, Bishop of Rome: The Gospel for the Third Millennium, Paulist Press. This year in cooperation with the USCCB he edited a manual for the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities titled Building Intercultural Competence for Catholic Colleges and Universities which will be published in 2018.
As many of you know, Fr. Tom Jordan is a frequent participant at NFPC National Convocations. Born in 1954 in the west end of London, he was ordained a priest in July 1989. In 2004, he became the Chairman of the National Conference of Priests of England and Wales. He shared their status with us each year, and with gentle humor and warm friendship, he united us with the international presbyterate in the shared priesthood of Jesus Christ.

Fr. Tom is currently working through some health challenges that make travel difficult, so is unable to attend the gathering this year. But he sends his best, and hopes that he will return in 2019.

"Please give my love and best wishes to all the brothers and sisters who gather in the name of the Lord."

We keep our brother, Fr. Tom, in our hearts and prayers always!
Father Thomas Rosica, C.S.B.
The award is presented to a priest who in the view of the president and Board of Directors of the National Federation of Priests’ Councils, is one whose service in the Gospel of Jesus Christ exemplifies the purpose and goals of the Federation. In particular, his leadership enhances the ministry of others and his words and deeds support the life and ministry of priests; thus he is, as it were, a touchstone for genuine, quality priesthood.

Ordained a priest in the Congregation of St. Basil in 1986, Fr. Thomas Rosica, a native of Rochester, New York, and a dual citizen of the USA and Canada, holds advanced degrees in Theology and Sacred Scripture from Regis College in the University of Toronto, the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome and the Ecole Biblique in Jerusalem.

Fr. Rosica has lectured in Sacred Scripture at Canadian Universities in Toronto, Windsor and London and served as Executive Director of the Newman Centre Catholic Chaplaincy at the University of Toronto from 1994-2000. In June 1999, he was appointed by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops as the Chief Executive Officer of Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation, Canada’s first national Catholic Television Network. Appointed by Pope Benedict XVI to the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in 2009, Fr. Rosica also served as Media Attaché at four Synods of Bishops at the Vatican in 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2015. He served as English language Media Attaché to the Holy See Press Office from 2008 – 2016.

Fr. Rosica has led retreats for bishops, priests and women religious throughout North America and in Ireland and has authored hundreds of articles on Scriptural and ecclesial themes over the years in numerous languages and is also author of several books on Scripture, Spirituality and the Saints. In his own religious congregation, he has served as rector and pastor of the Newman Centre at the University of Toronto, Master of Scholastics and member of the General Council of the Basilian Fathers from 2006-2010. He is currently Procurator General of the Congregation of Priests of St. Basil. He serves on the Boards of Trustees of St. John Fisher College in Rochester, the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas and the Collegium of the University of St. Michael’s College in Toronto, Ontario.

Alan Szafraniec
The award is presented to an individual or organization whose service in the Gospel of Jesus Christ exemplifies the purpose and goals of the Federation. In particular, the leadership of this individual or organization enhances the ministry of presbyteral councils, seeks to expound on the issues and concerns of priests, and champions NFPC’s mission and goals in the public square. The award’s scriptural reference is: “I have given you a model to follow, so as I have done for you, you should do also.” [John 13:15]

Alan Szafraniec began his ministry with NFPC in January 1997, hired for a part-time position as a publications assistant by then Executive Director, Marianist Brother Bernie Stratman. Alan had graduated a year earlier from Loyola University Chicago’s Institute of Pastoral Studies (IPS) and was in the process of discerning his future ministry. In 1998, Alan was asked to work full time at NFPC and he accepted this ministerial calling. Although his main responsibility became editing various print publications, including the Touchstone periodical and many of NFPC’s commissioned studies, Alan also became an important reference person to many dioceses and Catholic organizations. His developed connections with Catholic personalities across the U.S. became invaluable in NFPC’s ability to connect and support the U.S. presbyterate. In addition, in 2002, he began compiling and editing the weekly digital e-letter, NFPC This Week, and had produced over 700 by the time of his 2017 retirement.

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Alan believes firmly in his IPS professor Dr. Ann O’Hara Graff’s definition that pastoral ministry is mainly about “making God accessible.” He sought to live that in his work in what he referred to as a “theology of presence – being present, being there to listen, help, and serve in whatever area we are called.” With an outstanding memory for names and places, and a heart for service, Alan became known as the “history and the heart of NFPC.”
NFPC TOUCHSTONE AWARD RECIPIENTS

1985 Rev. Msgr. Colin (Scotty) MacDonald
1986 Most Rev. Raymond G. Hunthausen
1987 Rev. Msgr. George Higgins
1988 Rev. Frank J. McNulty
1989 Rev. John R. Gilbert
1990 Rev. Patrick J. O’Malley
1991 Rev. Paul H. Gallatin
1992 Rev. Virgil P. Elizondo
1993 Special Awards on the NFPC’s 25th Anniversary
1994 Rev. Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc
1995 Joseph Cardinal Bernardin
1996 Rev. William J. Bausch
1997 Rev. Michael J. McGivney
1998 Rev. Vincent Dwyer, OCSO
1999 Rev. Msgr. George Higgins
2000 Rev. Daniel E. Danielson
2002 Most Rev. Rembert G. Weakland, OSB
2003 Rev. Msgr. Phil Murnion
2004 Rev. Gene Konkel, SS
2005 Rev. J. Cletus Kiley
2007 The International Presidency
2008 Rev. Joseph A. Ponti
2009 Rev. Louis Vitale, OFM
2010 Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI
2011 Rev. Louis J. Cameli
2012 Rev. J. Ronald Knott
2013 Rev. Donald Senior, CP
2014 Rev. Jan Michael Joncas
2015 Rev. Louis J. Cameli
2016 Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, OMI
2017 Rev. Donald Cozzens
2018 Rev. Thomas Rosica, CSB

MANDATUM AWARD RECIPIENTS

2009 Sister Katarina Schuth, OSF
2010 Knights of Columbus
2011 Leadership Council of Women Religious
2012 Mr. Joseph Maher and Opus Bono Sacerdotti
2013 Most Rev. Robert F. Morneau
2014 Mary Jo Moran
2015 Dolores J. Orzel
2016 Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate
2017 National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus
2018 Alan Szafrańiec

YEAR CITY CONVOCATION TITLE
1960 New Orleans Due Process
1970 San Diego Shared Responsibility
1971 Baltimore Ministerial Priesthood
1972 Denver Faith and Justice
1973 Detroit Accountability
1974 San Francisco Hope
1975 St. Petersburg Reunification
1976 Houston Ministry: The Ordained in a Ministerial Church
1977 Louisville Ministry & New Ministries
1978 Seattle NFPC Past, Present, Future (100th Anniversary)
1979 Boston Ministry-Evangelization-Community
1980 Tucson Family Ministry & Church Structure
1981 Washington Procol as Power
1982 Kansas City The Parish: Preparing for the 21st Millennium
1983 Milwaukee The Word as Power as Form Church
1984 San Antonio The Church: Word/Ministry/Sacrament
1985 Newark The Pastor in an Age of Challenges
1986 Salt Lake City Women & Men: Partnership in Ministry
1987 St. Paul The Economic Pastoral: A New American Challenge
1988 Tampa Many Gifts, One Body: Intentional and International Presbyterates
1989 St. Petersburg The Parish of Tomorrow – Today!
1990 San Antonio The Call to Holiness and Wholeness
1991 New Orleans The Parish of Tomorrow – Today!
1992 Albuquerque Priests and Community: Test Stories, Test Futures
1994 San Antonio The Presbyterate: A Call to Mission
1995 Milwaukee The Priesthood Today: Generous Hearts, Changing Times
1996 Nashville Unity Amid Diversity: Priestly Ministry in an Age of Pluralism
1997 Phoenix Challenges of Pastoral Leadership in the Church of the Third Millennium
1998 Newark Standing on Common Ground: Leadership for Ministry in an Age of Renewal
1999 San Antonio From the Many, One Church
2000 Oakland Ministry in a Church of Many Cultures
2001 Worcester The Spiritual Renewal of the American Priesthood
2002 Naples The Evangelizing Mission of the Church in the New Millennium
2003 Kansas City 33 Years of Priestly Ministry: Serving the People of God
2004 Atlanta The Center and Source of Our Call to Ministry
2005 Portland, OR From Generation to Generation
2006 Minneapolis That You May Be One: The Community of Priests
2007 Tampa Many Gifts, One Body: International and International Presbyterates
2008 Orlando National Ministry Summit
2009 San Antonio The Parish of Tomorrow – Today!
2010 Houston The Call to Holiness and Wholeness
2011 Albuquerque Pastoral Leadership: One Mind, One Heart, One Spirit
2012 Nashville The Emerging Church of the 21st Century
2013 Denver All Things New in Christ
2014 Atlanta Renewing the Heart of the Church
2015 Louisville Father, Brother, Son: The Priest in the Family of God
2016 Indianapolis Pastoral Leadership: One Mind, One Heart, One Spirit
2017 Orlando Keeping Up With Pope Francis: Strengthening the Message to Parish Life
The National Federation of Priests’ Councils has been in the business of serving and supporting the US presbyterate since 1968. Because of that, **NFPC has connections.**

These connections offer a unique opportunity for all arch/dioceses across the U.S. Do you have a question that needs an answer? **Maybe we can help find the answer.**

**Example:**
A diocesan official sent an email to NFPC asking about a job description for a new ministry they were developing. NFPC staff started making phone calls. Within several hours, a diocese was contacted who had the exact ministry and a job description they gladly shared.

**Example:**
Another diocese’s Chancellor emailed NFPC asking about written policies and procedures in the case of the unexpected death of a priest. We sent an email out to contacts in dioceses across the US and within days had several helpful emails to forward to the Chancellor, who was very pleased with the clear and helpful information.

Thank you to all who respond when we send out requests; you are making a difference!

**NFPC is a national clearinghouse** for information concerning arch/dioceses, speaker recommendations, research, and other topics. Keep us in mind next time you are looking for answers.

**Also talk to us with input on the major issues affecting your ability to minister** in the United States today. In the past, we’ve tackled the heavy lifting for such concerns as salary compensation, personnel boards, and due process. Today’s issues need defining, and your input is our best resource.

Tell us how we can help, and we’ll get started!
CONGRATULATIONS!

Father Thomas Rosica, C.S.B.
Touchstone Award Recipient

Alan Szafaniec
Mandatum Award Recipient

and

National Federation of Priests’ Councils
50 years of communion, brotherhood and solidarity

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LPI is a stewardship communication company that serves as a single source for products and services that help create more vibrant faith communities.

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Warm Congratulations and Many Blessings to the National Federation of Priests’ Councils as NFPC celebrates its 50th Convocation

NFPC AND THE U.S. PRIESTHOOD:
LOOKING BACK - LOOKING FORWARD

A special salute to Awardees
Father Thomas Rosica, CSB and Alan Szafaniec

Regina Haney, Ed.D., Executive Director
and the Board of Directors
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www.nacpa.org

Learn more at www.littlebooks.org
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“While we have the opportunity, let us do good to all, but especially those of the household of the faith.” ~Gal 6:10

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Tell your priests’ council and arch/bishop about NFPC and that arch/diocesan support allows NFPC to continue to serve all.
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51st Annual National Convocation of Priests
April 29 - May 2, 2019

Watch nfpc.org for location announcement - COMING SOON!
Thank you

We thank you for sharing our 50th Anniversary Celebration!
It was better because you were here.
Communion, Brotherhood, Solidarity

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