

About the USACV-IRC Updated March 2021

The vocation of consecrated virginity lived in the world (the *Ordo Virginum*) dates back to the earliest days of the Church. As consecrated virgins, we pledge ourselves to follow Christ more closely, to spend time in works of penance and mercy, in apostolic activity and devout prayer. Our consecration is for the glory of God and the service of the Church and to be lived in the world. The USACV-IRC is formed in light of canon 604, for the purpose of fulfilling our pledge more faithfully and assisting one another to serve the Church. Membership in the association is entirely voluntary, and the association does not constitute a step toward the establishment of a religious or secular institute.

The USACV-IRC is in full communion with the Magisterium of the Church, being linked formally to the United States Catholic Bishops through an Episcopal Moderator. We are grateful to The Most Reverend Earl Boyea, Bishop of Lansing, for serving in the capacity of Episcopal Moderator for the USACV-IRC.

On December 3, 2018, members of the USACV approved restated organizational statutes for the United States Association of Consecrated Virgins. Effective January 1, 2019, reflecting its two sections, the new name was approved: The USACV and International Resource Center for the *Ordo Virginum* (USACV-IRC).

Highlights of the USACV-IRC organizational structure:

The USACV is directed by a leadership team of 5 U.S. consecrated virgins. The current leadership team: **Emily Byers, Francesca Riddick, Amanda Schrauth, Joani McCann, Elizabeth Lam**. The primary objective of the USACV section is to “foster communication, solidarity, and support among consecrated virgins living within the jurisdiction of the USCCB.” The USACV section continues to have Members and is responsible for member lists, the prayer line, *The Lamp*, Monday Morning Mail, planning of the annual convocation, and other activities.

The International Resource Center for the *Ordo Virginum* is directed by a leadership team of 2 U.S. and 4 non-U.S. consecrated virgins. The current team: **Magalis Aguilera** (U.S.), **Judith M. Stegman** (U.S.), **Maria Luisa Öfele** (Germany), **Renu Rita Silvano** (India), **Maria Luisa Meza** (El Salvador), and one to be announced. The primary objectives of the IRC section are to “encourage ongoing in-depth growth of understanding of consecrated virginity” and “to promote an accurate understanding of the vocation of consecrated virginity through programs of education, printed materials, and other media.” The IRC will be an online center offering resources in English and Spanish in collaboration with virgins around the world. Vocational resources may include materials and online courses in line with *Ecclesiae Sponsae Imago*, podcasts, resources for dioceses, pertinent links, and newsletters regarding *OV* activities.

The Overall Leadership Team for the USACV-IRC consists of the 11 members of the leadership teams of the two sections. The overall leadership team has responsibility for the annual

Information Conference held in the U.S., website development and maintenance, archives, inventory and sales fulfillment, and oversight of the budget and finances of the USACV-IRC. Mary Kay Lacke serves as director of the Information Conference.

Officers of the USACV-IRC: **Judith M. Stegman, JCD, CPA** serves as president; **Emily Byers** serves as secretary; **Karen Webb** serves as treasurer.

Involvement of Consecrated Virgins: The ideas and input of consecrated virgins are most welcome as we move ahead. In a particular way, U.S. consecrated virgins are invited to collaborate with both the USACV and the IRC, and virgins from other countries are invited to collaborate with the IRC. Other notes: **Anne Gishpert** serves as Archivist; **Elizabeth Lam** manages the USACV website; **Florence Sundberg** coordinates the prayer line.