**Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference**

**Michael Airdo** is a founding Member of Airdo Werwas, LLC. His practice focuses on the handling of complex civil litigation matters, including healthcare litigation, the defense of long-term care and assisted living facilities, catastrophic injury claims, municipal matters, and cases involving corporations, not-for-profit entities, educational facilities, and trade associations. He has a broad base of experience in representing the unique legal needs of religious institutes and religiously sponsored ministries. Mr. Airdo represents mental health professionals and has a wide array of experience in resolving matters through the alternative dispute resolution process. He is a frequent lecturer on topics related to his legal practice, including the legal liabilities that arise in retail establishments, board governance, fiduciary liabilities, and the legal and pastoral response of child-serving organizations to victims of childhood sexual abuse. He served on the Board of Trustees for the Village of Bartlett from 2001 to 2011 and as Mayor of Bartlett from 2011 to 2013. Mr. Airdo is a Member of the International Association of Defense Counsel and serves as Midwest Regional Chair of the Membership Committee. He is also a member of the IADC Foundation’s Board of Trustees. He is a member of Leading Lawyers. He received both his undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, and his law degree, with honors, from DePaul University.

**Lori Ashmore-Ruppel** is the director, sponsor services of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA). She assists the Catholic health ministry nationwide by providing resources and facilitation in the area of sponsorship. Responsibilities include assisting the senior director through research, writing and management of major departmental programs and projects. She coordinates planning, production and implementation of sponsor programs including the Sponsor Formation Program for Catholic Health Care that prepares current and prospective members of ministerial juridic person to carry out their responsibilities as stewards of the health ministry of the Catholic Church. Prior to starting her current position, Ms. Ashmore-Ruppel served as the mission program and research associate for the Catholic Health Association of the United States. Her focus was planning and facilitation of the Sponsor Formation Program for Catholic Health Care and providing research in the areas of ethics, mission and formation. In 2010, Ms. Ashmore-Ruppel served as director of a non-profit program sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province. Ms. Ashmore-Ruppel received her master’s degree in pastoral studies from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis and a graduate certificate in non-profit leadership and management from the University of Missouri - St. Louis. She has a bachelor’s degree in human services from Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

**Zela Astarjian** Managing Director at Catholic Investment Services, joined CIS in 2018 with responsibilities for investor and consultant relations, marketing and product development. She has worked in institutional product development and management in both the domestic and offshore arenas covering traditional and alternative investment products. Zela came to CIS from RhumbLine Advisers in Boston, where she was a business development and consultant relations professional. Earlier in her career she was a VP of business development for PSolve Asset Solutions, an independent investment consulting firm serving endowments, foundations and pensions. She is a dedicated contributor to 100 Women in Finance, a non-profit organization focused on connecting and encouraging women in the finance professions to advance their careers. She is also VP of the Armenian International Women’s Association. Zela attended L’Insitut D’Etudes Politiques in Paris and received her MBA from Fairleigh Dickinson University.

**Jenny Beatrice** has more than 20 years of experience in communications for religious organizations. She has served as the communications director for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet, St. Louis Province for 16 years. Jenny does it all from big-picture strategy to hands-on implementation. She is a
long-time member of CWR and is currently on the board of the Nonprofit Marketers Network-St. Louis. She also shares her knowledge and experiences as a speaker and consultant.

Leslie Biggins Mollsen is the President & Owner of American City Bureau, Inc., a 110-year-old, three-generation national fundraising consulting firm. Leslie joined ACB in 1990 and became its co-owner in 2007. She leads the company’s Catholic Services Division which focuses on philanthropic development for religious congregations and communities of men and women and the ministries they sponsor. She currently serves as a Trustee of the National Catholic Community Foundation (NCCF) and the advisory board of the Catholic Development Council of The Nonprofit Alliance, the voice of nonprofits to promote, protect and strengthen the philanthropic sector. In 2022, she was recognized by Pursuant’s inaugural “40 Over 40” award, which honors the work of nonprofit professionals who are driving lasting change around the world. She is a past board member of the National Catholic Development Conference and was ranked as the No. 3 most effective fundraising consultant in the nation in an independent survey by Michael Chatman, the Ambassador of Giving and creator of #WhyIGive. Leslie speaks nationwide and is a published author, including a chapter in the book: Ask for the World, Catholic Sisters and the Spirituality of Fundraising.

Sr. Barbara Biver, ASC has a BS from St. Louis University; an MA in Religious Education from Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, MI. Her ministry has included elementary education as both teacher and principal, Director of Religious Education and organist. Within her community she as been a Novice Director, the Director of Pastoral Care and the Director of Community Life for all sisters living at Ruma Center. She was the Interim Contact Person between the staff at Benedictine Living Community as Ruma Center closed. This ministry assisted the sisters in getting settled into their apartments, provided hospitality, and helped the sisters wherever needed.

Nicole E. Bonjean, Managing Attorney, Religious Immigration Services, CLINIC. Ms. Bonjean joined CLINIC as an Attorney in March 2013. While attending the Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law, from which she graduated in 2012, Bonjean interned at CLINIC with the Religious Immigration Services section. Ms. Bonjean holds a bachelor’s degree in history from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and is a member of the Virginia state bar.

Fr. Charles Bouchard, OP, S.T.D. is the senior director, theology and sponsorship at the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA). He counsels and assists sponsors and members of Public Juridic Persons (PJPs) in carrying out their canonical responsibilities for the health ministry of the Catholic Church and provides guidance for CEOs and boards regarding the distinctive roles of sponsorship and governance. He also works with Church leaders and bishops at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and at the Holy See on a range of issues involving health care, social justice, public policy and the Church. From 2015-2018, Fr. Bouchard served as CHA’s senior director, theology and ethics, where he supported the Catholic health ministry nationwide as an author, educator and consultant on the church’s theological and ethical teaching. He also served as executive editor of CHA’s quarterly online publication, Health Care Ethics USA. Prior to joining CHA, Fr. Bouchard served as provincial of the Dominican Province of St. Albert the Great from 2011 to 2015; as vice president for theological education at Ascension Health from 2008 to 2011; and as president and associate professor of moral theology at Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis for 18 years. He was instrumental in beginning Aquinas’ Master of Arts in Health Care Mission program, as well as the nation’s only Catholic doctoral program in preaching. He writes and lectures extensively on issues in health care, health care ethics, Catholic identity in sponsored institutions, and the intersection of political life, religion and faith. He contributed to and edited a volume of

Sr. Suzanne Brennan, CSC was general treasurer for the Sisters of the Holy Cross and on the Congregation’s General Leadership Team for the past five years, serves as councilor on the 2019-2024 team. She served as a social worker, was in healthcare administration in a number of medical centers, served in governance roles and, for 16 years, was the executive director of Holy Cross Ministries in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Sr. Julie Bruss, SND, M.Ed., M.S.Ed., LPCC-S, LCDC III, joined the staff of Guest House in November 2020 to provide outreach to women religious. In this role, she relates with women religious through educational programming and consultation, and ministers as a spiritual companion to those in treatment. She is a member of the United States Province of the Sisters of Notre Dame. Julie is a licensed clinical counselor with supervisory endorsement and a licensed chemical dependency counselor. She has worked in primary treatment settings for more than 15 years and has an extensive background in teaching, training, and counseling.

Sr. Deborah Cerullo, SSND, JD, JCL is an attorney and canonist whose primary focus is the legal issues of religious institutes. Sr. Deborah recently completed her term in elected leadership on the provincial council of the Atlantic- Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and has now returned to full-time consulting work with religious institutes, working out of Baltimore MD. Her legal experience includes over twelve years of private practice, serving on the law faculties of both the University of Notre Dame and Boston College and serving as a legal services attorney in both secular and faith-based organizations. She is also currently on the faculty of the Institute of Law and Religious Life at Misericordia University. Her civil law degree is from Boston University and her canon law licentiate is from St. Thomas Aquinas (the Angelicum) in Rome, Italy.

Andrea Chleboun, Manager, VMG Health. Andrea is a Manager at VMG Health with 10 years of experience in health care consulting. With a specific focus on strategic planning, Andrea has assisted numerous faith-based organizations with planning efforts to ensure future sustainability, including assisting clients with divestitures and managing RFP processes to ensure future visions and goals are attained. Prior to joining VMG Health, Andrea was a consultant at Health Care Futures.

Mark Chopko chairs Stradley Ronon’s nonprofit & religious organizations practice group, which brings together 25 lawyers from across the firm’s many legal disciplines to serve the unique needs of those clients. He joined the firm in 2007, after serving for more than 20 years as general counsel for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and nearly eight years as a regulatory attorney in Washington, D.C. He has extensive experience in untangling the liabilities of complex organizations, in both planning and organizing activities, and litigation. Mark has represented clients across the country, and from Europe to the Pacific Rim. A major emphasis of his practice is constitutional law and deflecting attempts by the government to regulate the activities of religious institutions. This work includes creating and adapting civil structures that reflect the mission of the organization, but also that separate and protect the operations and mission of the organization. He also has more than thirty years of experience in defending claims of professional misconduct by clergy and staff of religious and nonprofit institutions, including evaluation and mediation of those claims. In addition to his appellate and Supreme Court work for clients of the firm, Mark has participated in more than 30 Supreme Court cases as counsel for the Catholic Bishops, as
well as other religious groups, in friend-of-the-court briefs. He is also nationally known for his work on the liability of nonprofit entities and the protection of religious institutions. Mark’s work has been cited in articles and court opinions more than 300 times.

**Sr. Mary Catherine Clark, ASC** is currently serving as a Regional Councilor for the US Region of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. Her education includes a Master’s degree in religious education and post graduate studies in spiritual direction and parish administration. Most of her ministerial years have been in pastoral ministry across a spectrum of roles and with a variety of age groups. She is currently on the board of Directors of Wichita Woman’s Initiative and Newman University. As a native of Southern Illinois with deep connections to the sister and facility at Ruma, she became the leadership liaison to the Ruma Area Support Team.

**Trish Coffey** is the Finance Director for the Congregation of St. Joseph. She is based in LaGrange Park, IL. Trish has been working with the Congregation since 2010. She serves the Congregation in the areas of: financial reporting, budgeting, fleet management, IT Governance, internal policies and procedures, and organizational management. Trish has a Master of Science in Taxation (MST) from DePaul University and a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) with concentrations in both Accounting and Theology from the University of Notre Dame. She is a CPA, practiced public accounting with Ernst & Young LLP, then worked as a Director of Tax for CNA Insurance Company prior to her employment with the Congregation of St. Joseph.

**Sr. Nancy Conway, CSJ** is a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph and serves as a facilitation and engagement specialist with Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction. A native of Cleveland, Nancy entered the Congregation of St. Joseph (the founding congregation) there in 1966. Her educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, a Master of Science in Social Administration, and a Ph.D. in Organizational Development. Nancy’s ministry experience includes teaching at the high school level as well as performing social work for both a hospital and a women’s agency. Nancy also has 28 years of experience in organizational consulting/facilitation. Nancy was elected President of the newly formed Congregation of St. Joseph in 2007 and served in that capacity for 12 years, during which she helped guide and facilitate the Congregation’s discernment process regarding the future of its buildings and land in six states. Nancy has been invited to present multiple times at the RCRI National Conference.

**Sr. Paula Cooney, IHM** is a member of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary of Monroe, MI (IHM). She has taught spirituality of aging, developed person centered programs and established dementia support teams and environments in a retirement community of women religious. She has been an Eldercare Consultant for NRRO (National Religious Retirement Office), Paula has served in leadership in her own congregation. Over a period of five years, she acted as a consultant with the Servants of Jesus, a diocesan community of women religious, as they discerned their call into the future. She has now served as their Commissary for five years.

**Sr. Pat Cormack, SCSC.** With over 25 years in various congregational leadership positions, Sister Pat is currently serving as a councilor for the Holy Cross Sisters–USA House. She is the Board President of the Wisconsin Religious Collaborative, an organization designed to allow the ten participating religious institutes to assist each other in providing needed internal management services through collaboration, sharing of personnel or programs or through seeking and/or sharing the services of outside vendors. It is one of the first such organizations in the United States.

**Adam Counts,** Principal – Not-for-Profit Services Group Plante & Moran, PLLC. Adam has more than 13 years of experience in the not-for-profit industry. He has provided accounting, auditing,
tax and management consulting services to a variety of not-for-profit organizations and religious congregations. In addition to financial statement audits, Adam has extensive experience consulting with not for profits related to internal control design, finance office structure, operational improvements and organization culture. He leads the firm wide not-for-profit training initiatives for Plante Moran’s not for profit industry group. He has presented on technical accounting issues at RCRI, AICPA and firm not-for-profit education seminars.

**Doug Coward**, Founder and Director of National Expansion and Partnerships, Solar Energy Loan Fund. Doug has more than three decades of professional experience in Florida as a planner, clean energy policy expert, small business owner, elected official (i.e., 12 years as a St. Lucie County Commissioner), and more than 10 years as the Executive Director of SELF. He attended Florida State University earning a master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning, with an emphasis on economics and the environment. Doug has also worked as a Senior Environmental Planner with St. Lucie County, an Environmental Specialist, and Clean Energy Executive in the private sector, and Community Planner with 1000 Friends of Florida. Coward has received numerous awards, including “Most Outstanding Green Elected Official” from the South Florida Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and “Outstanding Local Public Official of the Year” from the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (FAPA). He has been described by the Florida media as, “an unusual combination of environmentalist, smart growth proponent, and business advocate.”

**Christopher Cox** is the executive director of Seventh Generation Interfaith Coalition for Responsible Investment. Chris also led the Human Thread Campaign, a program of Seventh Generation Interfaith, to raise awareness, direct action, and build solidarity with garment workers. Previously, he served in multicultural and low-income communities in the U.S. and Latin America. He earned an M.Div. and a B.A.(Program of Liberal Studies/Theology) from the University of Notre Dame.

**Kim Daniels** is the Director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University. She was appointed by Pope Francis as a Member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication and a member of the Synod 2021-2024 Communications Commission. She is a consultor to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee for Religious Liberty, and has advised the U.S.C.C.B. and other Catholic institutions on a broad range of issues where Church teachings intersect with public life. Kim is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Chicago Law School.

**Sr. Ginger Downey, OLVM** is a member of the congregation of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, commonly known as Victory Noll Sisters. She has just finished 10 years in congregational leadership and currently serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Heritage and Research Center at Saint Mary’s, or HARC. Sr. Ginger is a native of Wyoming and has a Bachelor’s degree in Sociology from the University of Wyoming and a Master’s degree in Theology, with emphasis in Liturgical Studies, from St. John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota. She has served in parishes as Director of Religious Education and Pastoral Associate in Catechetics and Liturgy and as the Diocesan Director of Worship for the Diocese of Phoenix. Her last ministry before her election to leadership in 2012 was with Faith on Fire, an adult formation ministry, which she co-founded to provide faith formation for adults in theology and liturgy.

**Mariam Dresden**, Manager – Not-for-Profit Services Group Plante & Moran, PLLC. Mariam is a manager with more than 7 years of experience and has served numerous not-for-profit and religious organizations in accounting, auditing, tax and management consulting. She is a member of the Firm’s not-for-profit professional standards team, with responsibility for performing quality reviews of not-for-profit financial statements and providing technical
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

guidance to engagement teams throughout the practice.

**Sr. Susan Durkin, OSU** served 8 years as President of the Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland. During her tenure the congregation constructed a new motherhouse and initiated the first phase of a long-term vision for their property. Following that process, the congregational archives and the long-term plan for their future became her focus. Sr. Susan now serves as the Executive Director of the Women Religious Archives Collaborative, Cleveland, OH, one of four collaborative repositories. Sr. Susan has experience in facilitation, fundraising, non-profit management, and property development. She also serves on several boards including RCRI and as a leadership liaison on the ACWR Board of Directors.

**Sr. Maureen Erdlen, SSJ** is a Sister of St. Joseph of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia. For more than 30 years, she ministered in Human Services Administration. She was elected to the General Council of her Congregation in 2014 and served as liaison for finances, properties and legal issues. Sister Maureen currently serves as Congregational President.

**Sr. Sue Ernster, FSPA** has served as President of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration since 2022, serving as Treasurer/CFO since 2013 and previously serving as Vice President from 2018-2022. Sr. Sue has been a member of FSPA since 1998. She has a BA in Accounting from Loras College in Dubuque, IA and a MA in Pastoral Ministry from School of Theology-St. John's University in Collegeville, MN. As Treasurer, Sr. Sue has worked in collaboration with CIIC members at increasing Impact Investing in line with Pope Francis’ request to redesign the economy to offer every person access to a dignified existence while protecting and regenerating the natural world (Let Us Dream).

**Sr. Sharon Euart, RSM, JCD** is the Executive Director of the Resource Center for Religious Institutes. She is a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. She holds master’s degrees in liberal arts and in administration and supervision from Johns Hopkins University and a doctorate in canon law from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Sister Sharon previously served as Associate General Secretary for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Executive Coordinator of the Canon Law Society of America and as a visiting lecturer in the School of Canon Law at The Catholic University of America. She currently serves as a consultant to the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocation. She is a past president of the Canon Law Society of America and recipient of its prestigious Role of Law Award and a member of the boards of trustees of Catholic Health Association and Seton Hall University.

**Rev. Séamus P. Finn, OMI** has been a member of the Justice/Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Ministry team of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate since 1986 and Director since 1999. The office supports the mission of the Congregation especially the JPIC dimension which has as priorities “being present where decisions affecting the lives and the futures of the poor are made” in both the public arena and the private sector. This office collaborates with numerous interfaith social justice and advocacy offices in Washington who work together to engage members of the US Congress by keeping them abreast of the priorities and recommendations of faith communities on legislation and programs that are being proposed and debated. The office also collaborates with other faith and civil society organizations that participate actively in the deliberations and proposals of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in as much as their decisions and proposals impact the poor and the marginalized and fail to protect the planet for future generations. This includes an active shareholder investment program both for the U.S. province of the Oblates and for the worldwide Congregation, involving a presence when appropriate in different legislative arenas and at international
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

institutions like the World Bank, IMF and the UN.

John Flanagan is a Catholic husband and father of 7 children this side of heaven. He has served the Catholic church through philanthropic advancement for over 20 yrs. His experience includes service as a missionary (4 yrs.), a development director (11 yrs.), a president/founder of a catholic development consulting firm (3 yrs.) and Executive director of a national Catholic nonprofit (7 yrs.) - working exclusively with philanthropic training and support of future priests, sisters and brothers in the Catholic church.

Mary J. Foley, Managing Director, Mission Advancement/Catholic School Management, Christian Brothers Services. Mary brings 40+ years of experience to the not-for-profit world and offers a wealth of strategic leadership skills and insights to the educational, religious, and social service arenas. Mary has worked with hundreds of not-for-profits, internally as a director of development, at the board level, and through a wide variety of consulting engagements. She has raised hundreds of millions of dollars through capital campaigns, annual fund appeals, and ever-expanding advancement initiatives for organizations large and small.

Brad Forbush is the Director of Fleet Management for Caritas Vehicles Services. Brad joined Caritas in 2013, and his team currently serves 35 Religious communities that operate 6,000 vehicles located across the U.S. Brad specializes in all phases fleet management, and he works closely with members of leadership and management to develop strategies and implement practices that improve efficiency and reduce the overall cost of providing transportation for congregations. Brad’s automotive career spans 40 years in several roles including key management positions with automakers Toyota and Lexus, and as Vice-President of Operations for a large retail automotive group. Prior to joining Caritas, Brad was a partner in an automotive management consulting firm, and he partnered with the Gallup Organization to develop industry-leading Executive Management educational programs. Brad has a BBA from Michigan State University and has completed graduate studies in Organizational Development and Leadership.

Christopher J. Fusco, JCL, Esq., is the Associate General Counsel and Moderator of the Tribunal for the Diocese of Metuchen. He is also the Associate Director for Civil Law at the Resource Center for Religious Institutes in Silver Spring, Maryland. Mr. Fusco holds a master’s degree in religious studies and a licentiate degree in canon law from The Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium. He received his Juris Doctor degree from The City University of New York School of Law and is admitted in New York and New Jersey.

Sr. Joan Gallagher, CSJ is currently serving in her Congregation’s Office of Spirituality and is a former Councilor on the Leadership Team of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood. The congregation’s Earth Matters committee, which Joan chairs, has supported several milestones in service of the community’s land ethic, including farmland preservation and organic farm leasing with the Peconic Land Trust, woodland conservation, alternative wastewater management, and a large solar array. Joan has been among the key collaborators with the Shinnecock Kelp Farmers, an Indigenous woman-led project to cultivate and harvest kelp in Shinnecock Bay where the community currently has a vacation/retreat house. Previously, Joan has served as Leadership Council Co-Chair of the CSSJ US Federation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, a Leadership
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

Collaborative board member, and Co-Director of the St. Joseph Worker Program.

Elizabeth Garlow co-founded and co-leads the Francesco Collaborative, inspired by Pope Francis’s Economy of Francesco movement. Through her work, she supports protagonists of transformation that seek to draw on shared lineages of faith, spirituality, and wisdom to shape the economy. Elizabeth is also a senior fellow at New America, where she focuses on structural reform and imagines new ways of building an economy rooted in wellbeing.

Elizabeth previously championed and led impact investing for the Lumina Foundation, served as a policy advisor with the Obama Administration, and co-founded a Detroit-based non-profit, Michigan Corps, which supported social entrepreneurs. She studied political economy at Kalamazoo College, completed her graduate work in public policy and economics at Princeton University, and was awarded an honorary doctorate by the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology in 2019.

Sarah Geisler, Executive Director, Religious Communities Impact Fund. In July 2020, Sarah became Religious Communities Impact Fund’s (RCIF) second Executive Director, accepting the torch from Sr. Corinne Florek, OP. Sarah is a seasoned community development finance professional committed to positively impacting lives, especially those of low-income and marginalized people. With over 30 years of experience in nonprofit and government organizations, Sarah has worked in community development and environmental conservation. Before joining RCIF, Sarah worked for twenty years at Homewise, a nonprofit homeownership CDFI in New Mexico. During her tenure, Sarah served in several positions supporting the organization’s success and growth, from a small CDFI with assets of $13 million serving Santa Fe to a statewide organization and national leader with over $150 million assets. Sarah’s responsibilities at Homewise included resource and relationship development, marketing, investment underwriting and analysis, impact assessment, and financial reporting. From her start as the Home Improvement Program Manager overseeing $1 million in home improvement projects for low-income homeowners annually, Sarah played key roles on the Finance team, rising to the Investor Relations Manager, representing the organization externally, and playing a lead role in developing and executing the organization’s capital strategy. Prior to 2000, Sarah was a Program Analyst with the US Treasury’s CDFI Fund. In addition, she served as the Assistant to the Senior Vice President for Rural Programs at the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) as a graduate school fellow. She worked on environmental issues at the local, state, and federal levels, including water protection, land conservation, and climate change. Sarah holds a BA in Political Science from Simmons University in Boston and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College, CUNY.

Jennifer Gniady is Managing Counsel and Co-Chair of the Nonprofit & Religious Institutions practice group of Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young LLP in its Washington, D.C. office. She advises religious institutes on corporate structures, trust formation, and governance matters. In particular, she works to ensure civil corporate structures accurately reflect the canonical entities and assists institutes undergoing reorganizations. She counsels on tax-exempt regulations, business transactions, and religious rights across a variety of areas such as employment and healthcare. She is a graduate of Fordham University School of Law and clerked for the D.C. Court of Appeals before entering private practice.

Jeff Harrison develops a variety of online programs, field risk reduction educational programs, risk management resources and coordinates a wide variety of risk control services for more than 1,200 members of a Risk Pooling Trust nationwide. He has over 30 years of experience in the field on safety and risk management. He has been with Christian Brothers Services for over 25 years. Jeff has obtained Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and Associate in Risk Management (ARM) designations and is currently a member of the
American Society of Safety Professionals, Society of Casualty Safety Engineers and is the CBS coordinator working with the National Safety Council.

**Julie Heiberger AIA NCARB LEED® AP**, with more than 25 years of experience, has provided design and strategic planning services to more than 25 religious orders throughout the United States. The religious market leader and a senior project architect/owner with Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc., Julie is a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED®) Accredited Professional and a member of the American Institute of Architects, the Society of the Advancement of Gerontological Environments, and a National Council of Architecture Registration Boards certificate holder. She received her Master of Architecture, with an emphasis in Environmental Behavior Studies, from the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Julie has spoken at several past RCRI National Conferences.

**Sr. Amy Hereford, CSJ, JD, JCD** is a Sister of St. Joseph. She has been in religious life for over 30 years and has served in a variety of ministries in education, administration, communication, vocation/formation, and community leadership. Sr. Amy has degrees in science, communication, and theology, as well as in civil and canon law. This background helps her to assist religious communities, and to help those who are making important choices about the future of their institutes. Beginning in teaching and communication, Sr. Amy then moved into management and administration and then into consulting. As a consultant and facilitator, she works with religious communities and with small to mid-sized charitable organizations across the US and beyond, especially in assisting organizations facing the challenges of an uncertain and changing future. She helps clients maximize their resources for the sake of their mission and to further organizational goals. In her work as a writer, speaker and retreat director she addresses technical concerns of religious institutes and explores the evolving nature of religious life itself. Sr. Amy has been admitted to practice in Missouri, Massachusetts and before the US Tax Court.

**Fr. Enrico Hernandez, IVDei** currently serves as the CFO of the Sister Servants of the Blessed Sacrament, Province of the Immaculate Conception, and Director of (Financial) Sustainability of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, District of San Francisco New Orleans. Fr. Rico also is an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco where he has taught Accounting Information Systems, Financial Accounting, Managerial Accounting, and Catholic School Finance. Fr. Rico currently teaches nonprofit and governmental accounting, a course he has taught the last eight (8) years. In addition, Father Rico has served on several nonprofit boards, finance committees, and audit committees. Father Rico holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from Stanford University; a Master of Business Administration degree from the Haas School of Business, University of California, Berkeley; a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Theology degree from St. Patrick’s Seminary and University; and a Master of Arts in Catholic Educational Leadership from the University of San Francisco. Father Rico is a member of the **Voluntas Dei Institute, District of the United States**.

**Sr. Jane Hibbard, RNJM** is the Pastoral Administrator/Commissary Benedictine Sisters of Mt. Angel She has been a member of the Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary since 1964. They are an Apostolic Community, founded for the education of children and young women in Montreal, CA. She taught 1st – 3rd grade for 7 years, and then spent the next 21 years as an elementary school principal. Following a sabbatical time, she served on Holy Names leadership teams for 10 plus years. Her gifts are in pastoral administration with a focus on health and well-being of Sisters. She had just completed a sabbatical in 2016 and was invited by the Benedictine President of the Federation of St. Gertrude to consider the Pastoral Administrator/Commissary position with the Benedictine Sisters of Mt Angel, one
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

hour south of Portland in the Willamette Valley. She has been serving in this position for 6 years.

**Laurie Horvath, CPA** has more than 20 years of public accounting experience, including 12 years with an international firm with five in a national office role. As Baker Tilly’s healthcare and not-for-profit practice leader in Detroit, she specializes in providing auditing, accounting and consulting services to not-for-profit and healthcare clients, including financial statement audits and single audits under OMB Uniform Guidance.

**Sr. Jenny Howard, SP** entered the Congregation on August 22, 1983, and has been a Sister of Providence for 34 years. She is a native of Indianapolis. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor’s degree in biology and earned a master’s degree in biology from Ball State University. She also has a master’s degree in guidance counseling in secondary schools from Northeastern Illinois University. Currently, Sister Jenny ministers as the Congregation Leader for Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington, Indiana, and part-time at Providence Housing Corp., located in West Terre Haute. Prior to that, she ministered on the Congregation’s Leadership Team and as Vocations Director. She has also ministered as a teacher at North Central High School in Indianapolis, as well as Providence-St. Mel School in Chicago and Cathedral High School in Indianapolis. Sister Jenny also ministered on the Congregation’s Leadership Team from 1996 to 2001.

**Sr. Mary Ellen Hubbard, ASC, LPC** is a Licensed Professional Counselor in private practice. Her background includes teaching at the elementary and secondary levels, Diocesan and parish Youth Ministry, Director of Temporary Professed. Her education includes degrees in Theology (St. Louis University), Religious Education (St. Paul’s University, Ottawa) and Human Development Counseling (University of Illinois – Springfield, IL).

**Sr. Barbara Hudock, ASC** a member of the Ruma Area Support Team, received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology and Elementary Education (Saint Louis University), a Masters in Instruction/Administration from Boston University and post-graduate work at Fontbonne University in St. Louis. She was a primary teacher for 11 years, principal for 21 years. From 2006 – 2018 she held the positions of Regional Counselor and Regional Superior for the US Region of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ.

**Henry Hundt** is an expert in sustainability and has been a renewable energy design & planning consultant with Hoffman Planning, Design & Construction, Inc. since 2017. Henry’s responsibilities have focused on techno-economic modeling for solar and storage microgrids, net-zero energy building implementation and project management, and full electric building design optimization (including ground source heat pumps for net-zero energy buildings). Henry’s career at Hoffman includes his involvement in the Microgrid Feasibility Study for Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, Wisconsin, as well as his work with three other women religious congregations. In addition to his work with Hoffman, Henry is serving as a University of Wisconsin Madison’s Office of Sustainability sponsored researcher at the Climate Action Lab. Henry previously served as a renewable energy fellow for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation. A graduate of Cornell College in Iowa, Henry received his Sustainable Energy Certificate from the University of Alaska Fairbanks and is currently working toward his Master of Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin Madison Energy Analysis and Policy.

**Jeannine Jacokes**, Chief Executive Officer, Partners - Partners for the Common Good & Community Development Bankers Association. Jeannine Jacokes is CEO and founder of Partners for the Common Good (PCG), a national CDFI intermediary that finances affordable housing and community facilities. In that capacity, she founded and currently serves as CEO of the Community Development Bankers Association (CDBA). CDBA is the national trade association
for mission-focused banks that are Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and Minority Depository Institutions (MDIs). Over her career, Jeannine has been integral to the growth of the CDFI and MDI sector and promoting access to capital in underserved communities. She served as a senior policy advisor at the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs where she played a lead role in drafting the CDFI Fund’s authorizing statute. She later joined U.S. Treasury on the leadership team that launched the CDFI Fund. Since 1994, the CDFI Fund has awarded $3.5 billion in grants to build the lending capacity of sector. Jeannine left Treasury to start PCG and CDBA twenty years ago. Over the years, the organizations have led many of the Federal policy victories that have advanced the CDFI and MDI sectors, promoted access to capital in low-income communities, and addressed the racial wealth gap. During the COVID pandemic and economic fall-out, CDBA led advocacy efforts that resulted in $12 billion in Federal resources being allocated to CDFIs and MDIs, including the creation of the Emergency Capital Investment Program (ECIP). Jeannine received her Masters in Urban Planning for the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill and her undergraduate degree from Aquinas College.

Bethany Jaeger is principal of KEB’s management consulting practice based in Springfield, Illinois. She specializes in long-range planning processes for religious institutes. These processes often intertwine decisions about property stewardship, sponsored ministries, care of members, and other forms of transformation.

Dr. Richard P. Johnson, Ph.D., PCSG is nationally recognized for his pioneering work in Spiritual Gerontology and maturing adult faith formation. Dr. Johnson coined the term “spiritual gerontology” to highlight the role of faith in the aging process. He is invited into many parishes, churches, and retirement centers for consultation, workshops, retreats, and other educational work. Dr. Johnson has given keynote addresses and presentations at conferences including ACA, AADA, NACPA, NOCERC, LCWR, NFPC, NACSW, NACFLM, and others.

Sr. Helen Kearney, CSI is currently serving as Commissary, named Canonical Trustee, for the Congregation of the Infant Jesus, Rockville Centre, New York since January 2022. She served in Leadership for the Sisters of St. Joseph, Brentwood, New York, on Council for 11 years and as President for 2 five year terms until 2021. Her previous ministry was at St. Joseph’s University, New York as a Professor of Child Development and Director of the Child Development Center at St. Joseph’s. She consulted with New York Schools as a Developmental Psychologist. She has received a BA from St. Joseph’s College, MA and PhD in Psychology from New York University.

Anne Kertz Kernion is the owner/artist of Cards by Anne, an inspirational greeting card company founded in 1986. Her second book, Spiritual Practices for the Brain, was published in 2020 by Loyola Press. Her first book, A Year of Spiritual Companionship was published by Skylight Paths in 2016. Anne’s cards are available online (cardsbyanne.com) and in hundreds of stores. For fourteen years, Anne taught “Cross-Cultural Understanding of Religious Meaning” at Carlow University. For seven years, she was also an adjunct professor at CCAC, teaching courses ranging from Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Nutrition to World Religions and Ethics. Currently, Anne is a frequent lecturer and retreat leader, presenting topics that combine neuroscience, positive psychology, and spirituality to Catholic schools, churches, religious communities, conference attendees, retreatants, and hospital staff throughout the US and Australia. She is also a certified yoga instructor and teaches a weekly Yoga class. She has a BS in Environmental Engineering, Penn State; MA in Theology, Duquesne University; Certificate in the Science of Happiness, UC Berkeley; Graduate certificate in Positive Psychology, U. of Missouri.
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

Mary Kessler has nearly 40 years of human resource experience in both Catholic Church and non-profit work environments. She has provided consultation services and management training in personnel/human resource administration for congregations of women and men religious, groups of new priest pastors and lay diocesan and parish managers. She co-presented a management training and diversity program for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and also serves as a consultant for the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators (NACPA). In her consulting work, Mary has also conducted human resource audits to help religious organizations assess effective administrative practices and organizational operations. She has worked on-site as a temporary human resource director for parishes, Catholic Charities agencies, dioceses and religious congregations and has conducted several executive searches and retirement studies for both men’s and women’s religious congregations. Mary holds an education degree from Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan and a Certificate in Business Management from St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York. Her office is located outside of Los Angeles.

Adam Kopp has been with Mercy for a total of almost 9 years. As Director of Real Estate Practices, he leads the management of systems, processes and policies that support a consistent, highly impactful approach to real estate development across Mercy Housing, Inc. Previously, he spent 8 years working for Mercy Community Capital, most recently as Lending Manager, providing financing for affordable housing developments across the country. Adam then spent a year at Gershman Investment Corp where he worked on HUD/FHA financing before returning to the Mercy in the Director role. Prior to joining Mercy Housing, Adam was an Associate at UDR, Inc., a multifamily REIT. Adam has a BA from Dickinson College and a Master of Real Estate and Construction Management from the University of Denver.

Brittany Koteles is the Co-Founder and Director of the Nuns & Nones Land Justice Project, which supports religious communities to create property plans rooted in racial and ecological healing. The N&N Land Justice Project has worked with members of over 110 communities to explore real property options that protect and regenerate the land, while also expanding land access, equity, and governance to those who have been most harmed by our current economic system. The project has featured dozens of case studies of land justice on its learning platform, including Indigenous land trusts, Black farming cooperatives, food justice collectives, community land trusts, and more. She believes that religious land legacies can play a key role in the climate justice movement. Brittany lives on traditional Potawatomi, Menominee, and Ho-Chunk lands in Milwaukee, WI.

Sr. Carla Kovack, OP joined the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael over 50 years ago. After the initial years of training and college, she became an educator working in elementary schools as a teacher and principal for more than 20 years. In the 1980s, her focus shifted to ministry with young adults. As Director of Formation and then Vocation Promoter, she often gave reflection days and discernment retreat for young adults. Eventually she began working as a campus minister at Dominican University of CA. At the University she mentored students in their search for meaning, spirituality, and how their gift of self can make a difference in our broken world. She provided immersion experiences for students and faculty to Tijuana and Uganda, became a key leader in the formation of the university’s Sustainability Committee to ‘green’ all areas of operation. Through student engagement and education, she diversified the focus of spirituality to hosting Sufi, Buddhist, and Quaker mediation groups as well as the Catholic and Christian groups. In 2009, Sister Carla was elected as a member of the council of the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael. After 10 years as a council member she was elected as Prioress in 2019.
Sonia Kowal is president of Zevin Asset Management, a majority women-owned and led asset manager in Boston focused on global equity and global balanced portfolios. She started her career in Scotland as a traditional equity analyst and portfolio manager for a very large institutional asset manager. Increasingly disillusioned by the greed in the industry, she transitioned to more impactful investing in 2007 building out Zevin’s shareholder advocacy program before becoming the firm’s president nearly a decade ago. Sonia also serves on the board of ICCR, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

Ellen Labita, CPA has over 30 years of experience and is the team leader for Baker Tilly’s New York not-for-profit and healthcare practices. She works with religious organizations and their sponsored ministries, educational institutions, human services and behavioral health providers, and other not-for-profits, providing audit and consulting services. Ellen is a professional practice leader for the firm’s not-for-profit industries and a frequent speaker at industry conferences.

Sr. Ann Lacour, MSC presently serves as the Congregational Leader for the Marianites and has served the Sisters of the Most Holy Sacrament since January 2014 as Pontifical Commissary. Being creative and realistic, allows one to keep the role of servant leader a privilege. Ann has a long history in education and in Development. She serves on the RCRI Board, the University of Holy Cross Board in New Orleans, and the Holy Cross School. As a member of the Family of Holy Cross she is active in the development of a collaborative project to secure the future of the foundation for the four congregations in LeMans, France.

Dayna Larson-Hurst, RN, MSOD, has worked in Catholic health care for over 24 years. As a leader and consultant, she has a passion for devising innovative ways to help congregations develop and implement strategic-change initiatives that lead to the creation of life-giving communities. Much of her work now is focused on both well-being as we age and working with congregations to implement person-directed care particularly for those with dementia. She is currently an adjunct staff member with the NRRO as well as a consultant for Catholic religious congregations throughout the United States. Dayna is a registered nurse with a BA in Business and a master’s degree in Organization Development. She is a nationally certified Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care Practitioner Trainer, a Certified Montessori Dementia Care Professional, and a Life Legacy Facilitator.

Sr. Mary Ellen Leciejewski, OP is the System Vice President for Environmental Sustainability for CommonSpirit Health based in California. In this role, Sr. Mary Ellen is responsible for overseeing systemwide sustainability initiatives. In conjunction with her work in sustainability, Sr. Mary Ellen facilitates communication networks among her colleagues and works closely with hospital systems and environmental organizations throughout the country to raise awareness of healthcare’s impact on the environment and to promote programs that proactively address issues of sustainability.

Sr. Hertha Longo, CSA, is General Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors for the Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes. As General Treasurer, Sister Hertha is responsible for stewarding the finances and properties of the Congregation.

Br. Lawrence Lundin, SJ joined the RCRI office in 2013 and is the Associate Director for Administration and Finance. After joining the Jesuits in 1966, he received a degree in accounting from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and an MBA from Loyola University New Orleans. He worked in Jesuit community administration for many years including five years at the Jesuit Conference (Office) in Washington. He completed 22 years as New Orleans Province treasurer in June 2012. He has worked with over 20 religious institutes on TRENDS and/or financial planning. This includes active and contemplative communities, and men’s and women’s institutes.
Kayoko Lyons, CFA is the Director of Investing for the Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Prior to this role she worked at MicroVest Capital Management, an impact investing fund, and for JPMorgan Chase. She holds a BA in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, a MA in International Economics and Development from the Johns Hopkins University – Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). She is proficient in Spanish and speaks basic Italian.

Mark MacDougall has been a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld, LLP since 1994. A former federal prosecutor, Mark is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and for more than a decade has provided pro bono trial representation to indigent defendants facing the death penalty in South Carolina. In addition to his trial work, Mark is a recognized authority on civil law as it relates to religious institutes. He is a regular speaker and contributor to programs sponsored by the Resource Center for Religious Institutes.

James Malone is Chief Financial and Diversity Officer for Community Capital Management and is responsible for overseeing the firm’s finance operations and financial reporting as well as establishing policies and opportunities to foster an inclusive, equitable, and supportive work environment.

Melody Maravillas is the Chief Financial Officer for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, which has three regions located in New Jersey, Washington state, and the United Kingdom. In this role, she oversees the financial operations of the Congregation. Currently, she is working on developing the structure that will enable them to use their resources for mission on an ongoing basis. Prior to joining the Congregation, she was the CFO for the Jewish Federation of Northern New Jersey. She holds a double major in Business Administration and Accountancy from the University of the Philippines and worked in finance for several multinational companies in the Philippines before moving to the United States. Melody has over 20 years’ of combined experience in audit, accounting, and finance, of which 10 years are in the nonprofit industry.

Graciela Mateo is the Senior Attorney of the Religious Immigration Services (RIS) section of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). She has been with CLINIC in its RIS section since 2017 practicing exclusively in the area of religious immigration law. CLINIC currently represents over 100 religious organizations assisting them in bringing international priests, brothers, sisters, novices, seminarians, and other religious workers into the U.S. to serve the Church. Ms. Mateo has been practicing immigration law since 2018. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and Charlotte School of Law.

Susan McDonough, FACHE, NHA joined the senior living team at Ziegler in 2016. As a special consultant for Catholic Elder Care and post-acute issues, she is providing strategy advice to Ziegler’s clients, while also working to promote a sustainable future for Catholic elder care services. From 1996 until 2016, Susan was the vice president, Strategy & System Development for Covenant Health in Massachusetts. In this position, she was responsible for creating system-wide strategy and new business development. Susan provided strategic planning, oversaw advocacy and communication efforts, analyzed new business and acquisition opportunities, supported operational improvement initiatives and directed start-up management and operational support services to both acute and elder care programs. She directed Covenant’s consulting services to congregations, dioceses, and other not-for-profit organizations. Over the course of her career, she was a principal with the firm Lanzikos, McDonough & Associates, a Boston-based management consulting firm specializing in elder care. She has also served as the State Long Term Care Ombudsman for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Susan serves and has served as a board member or sponsor for a wide range of organizations including Presence Health, in Chicago, IL, now part of Ascension/Amita Health, LeadingAge,
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

Washington DC, the Catholic Health Association of the United States, the Massachusetts Alzheimer’s Association, LeadingAge Massachusetts and several skilled nursing, assisted living and elder care campuses. She is a frequent speaker on health and elder care issues. Susan is licensed as both a Nursing Home Administrator and Social Worker and is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives.

Chad McEachern is the President & CEO of the Edmundite Missions, a Catholic poverty services organization founded in Selma, Alabama in 1937. Chad joined the Missions in 2008 and became its first lay President in 2012. He is a former Chair of the National Catholic Development Conference and currently serves as a Trustee of the National Catholic Community Foundation, Chairman of the Board of the Wallace Community College Foundation, a Trustee of St. Michael’s College, a member of the Personnel Board for the City of Selma, and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the U.S. Attorney’s Weed and Seed Committee for Dallas County. Chad has received numerous national and local awards and recognition for his work in Catholic philanthropy and innovative approach to poverty services. He earned his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from St. Michael’s College, studied theology at Saint Bonaventure University and Washington Theological Union, and earned a certificate in Catholic Non-Profit Management and Leadership from Notre Dame University.

Ed McGrath, Managing Director, VMG Health. With over 30 years of experience in health care management and consulting, Ed’s client base includes post-acute/long-term care organizations, large healthcare systems, and physician group practices. Ed is passionate about ensuring the longevity and sustainability of Catholic healthcare and is proud to include dozens of Catholic-based healthcare systems located across the nation in his client base. Additionally, Ed has assisted seven long-term care facilities, four of which were Catholic-sponsored, through the RFP process to sell their organizations. He has also led sponsorship transition assignments for 15+ Catholic Hospitals. In addition, he served as Board Chair for a Catholic Hospital as that organization sold its Ministry to another Catholic System. Prior to joining VMG Health, Ed was a Founding Partner for 25 years at Health Care Futures. Prior to Health Care Futures, Ed served as the partner in charge of the KPMG Healthcare Advisory Practice in Chicago.

Sr. Susan Mika, OSB currently serves as director of the Benedictine Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI). As part of this ministry, she speaks to corporations about their practices, attends shareholder meetings and files shareholder resolutions to urge companies to enhance their policies. She is involved in documenting what is happening with the current U.S. immigration policies as part of the Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC) in San Antonio. Sister has served in leadership at the monastery in Boerne, Texas and on the board of the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR). She helped start Camino a la Paz, an intercongregational justice and peace group in Texas, and she helped form the international Coalition for Justice in the Maquiladoras (CJM). She also researched and documented conditions in the maquiladora factories in Mexico. Sister Susan has served as Executive Director of the Texas Coalition for Responsible Investment (CRI), now known as the Socially Responsible Investment Coalition (SRIC).

Sr. Ramona Miller, OSF has a wide experience in pastoral ministry in parishes and retreat centers. She served as a member of her congregation’s leadership team, 2006-2012, and president, 2018-2022. From 2009 – 2013, she served as the president of the Franciscan Federation. For twenty-five years her ministry included serving as a staff member of the Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs leading pilgrimages to Assisi, Italy. She is a graduate of Seattle University (Master’s in Ministry) and the Franciscan Institute, St. Bonaventure University (Master’s in Franciscan Studies), author of In the Footsteps of Saint Clare, and co-author of
Praying with Clare of Assisi. She was appointed in May 2021 to be the commissary for the Poor Clares who reside in Rochester, Minnesota.

Dan Misleh  As the founder of Catholic Climate Covenant it is a privilege to work every day with our partners and supporters to share the good news of Catholic teaching to care for our common home. Prior to this work, I spent 11 years in the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, and three years in the Office of Social Action in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. After graduating from Xavier University in Cincinnati, I joined the Jesuit Volunteer Corps and was stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska, where I met my wife Susie (also a volunteer). I received an M.A. in Theology from the Franciscan School of Theology in Berkeley, CA in 1989. Susie and I have three children: Benjamin, Anna and Zachary.

Sr. Madeleine Munday, RGS, was born in San Antonio, TX. Growing up in an Air Force family, she experienced life in different parts of the U.S. as well as Japan, Germany, and the Canal Zone. Madeleine entered the Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd in 1979 with a B.A. in Political Science from Maryville College, an M.A. in Urban Affairs, and J.D. from St. Louis University. Madeleine ministered in Good Shepherd residential programs for women in transition, e.g., released from prison, recovering from addiction, healing from domestic violence, and homelessness. She also served as a residence director for adolescent girls. Madeleine has been in province leadership since 2008 and currently serves as Province Leader.

Constance Neeson, LSW, Director - Benefit Eligibility Management for Religious - BMT, A Division of Christian Brothers Services. Constance is the Director of Benefit Eligibility Management for religious for BMT, a Division of Christian Brothers Services. Constance is a Licensed Social Worker in the state of Indiana. Constance and her team of Benefit Eligibility Consultants specialize in implementing efficient benefit eligibility management programs for over 90 religious institutes. Over the past 18 years, her team has assisted various religious institutes in achieving a total estimated financial impact of over $322.5 million, in increased income and health care savings, for their congregations, through the use of the various available benefit programs. The team also assists congregations with accessing enrollments into various insurance programs, and with medical billing processing. Constance has been a featured speaker at previous conferences of the Resource Center for Religious Institute (RCRI), National Association of Treasurers of Religious Institutes (NATRI), Orientation to Management of Religious Institutes (OMRI), and the Regional Congress of Religious Treasurers (CORT) meetings.

Kevin O’Connell, CPA specializes in assurance and compliance services, providing our clients with in-depth knowledge of technical U.S. GAAP accounting and compliance under the Uniform Guidance. He works with a broad range of industries within the firm’s not-for-profit practice including education, healthcare, and religious organizations.

Aimee O’Connor is a managing partner for Marquette Associates and has 19 years of investment experience. An owner of the firm, Aimee has been with the company since 2019 and serves as the primary consultant on several endowment, high net worth, and family office relationships. She is a member of the sustainable investing group.

Sr. Irene O’Neill, CSJ, Ed.D. is a Sister of Saint Joseph of Carondelet and serves as President of Sisters Rising Worldwide. She served for 15 years as Chair of the Bethlehem University Foundation (currently Chair Emeritus), 15 years as a Regent for Bethlehem University in Palestine, and was a Trustee for Avila University in Kansas City, Missouri. Sister Irene served for nearly 20 years as the Executive Director of the Sisters of S. Joseph of Carondelet Ministries Foundation, Curriculum Coordinator for the Saint Paul Minneapolis Archdiocesan
Elementary Schools, Adjunct Faculty member at the University of Minnesota and the University of Saint Mary Graduate School, and an elementary school teacher.

Michael Ann Orlik, SSCM is a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She began her teaching career in elementary schools teaching both elementary and middle school students in Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania. She holds a Master’s degree in Elementary Administration from Scranton University and served as Principal in Mechanicsburg, PA. After that she served as General Superior of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She is presently serving as Assistant to the General Superior.

John O’Shaughnessy is the Treasurer/Chief Investment Officer of the Franciscan Sisters of Mary, a Roman Catholic congregation of women religious in St. Louis. His responsibilities include directing the congregation’s Mission & Focus work, including its grant making program. During his 31 years with the Sisters, he has served as financial advisor to several other Catholic congregations. John co-founded the Catholic Impact Investing Collaborative in 2014 and is a board member and treasurer of the Laudato Si Movement. He earned a BSBA from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and was previously a practicing Certified Public Accountant and Registered Investment Advisor. John resides in St. Louis with Sheri, his wonderful wife of 36 years, and together they have two adult children and one amazing 8-year-old grandson. John is also an avid handball player and student of contemplative prayer.

Krista Pankop, CPA has been with Baker Tilly since 1995. She serves as the firm not-for-profit network leader, firm leader of the behavioral health sector and chairs the firm’s women’s affinity committee, Growth and Retention of Women (GROW). Krista specializes in serving not-for-profit clients including religious orders and their ministries, healthcare, senior living and behavioral health. Outside of the office, Krista serves on the board of a sponsored ministry.

Stephen Patterson practice focuses on commercial real estate, sophisticated real estate transactions, leasing, land development, government and regulatory affairs, public finance, and government incentives for economic development. Stephen has the proven ability to align divergent business objectives of multiple parties and secure favorable results for client. He has strong communication skills with ability to translate complex legal information into solution-oriented advice. Stephen has presented clients in major private and not-for-profit entities throughout the Midwest, as well as small development entities and individuals. Stephen has negotiated and prepared various types of real estate transactional and finance agreements, in addition to office, retail and commercial lease agreements. He has closed real estate transactions and financings, and has also acted as outside land use and zoning counsel to multiple clients with large landholdings throughout Illinois. Mr. Patterson’s experience includes: purchase and sale agreements for commercial real estate transactions; full-service, gross, modified gross and triple-net lease agreements for medical, commercial and retail tenants and landlords; various types of easement agreements, including multi-party easement agreements for residential, commercial and retail subdivisions; municipal ordinances related to real estate development projects, including municipal planned development and special use permit ordinances; redevelopment agreements, including sales tax sharing and tax increment financing agreements; and, annexation agreements. He received his law degree from DePaul University College of Law in 2003.

Toni Ponder is a Missouri licensed attorney and graduated from Saint Louis University Law School in 1999. From 1999-2011, she practiced corporate and real estate law in mid-size firms in St. Louis while serving on Catholic non-profit boards. Since 2011, Toni has worked as a non-profit professional in multiple capacities for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. In 2018, Toni began working with the Society of the Sacred Heart.
United States-Canada Province as its first Chief Operating Officer/General Counsel. In 2021, the Sisters of the Good Shepherd Province of Mid-North hired Toni as Director of Province Administration/General Counsel performing a very similar job function. The Sisters of the Good Shepherd are embarking on a consolidation between its two other North American Provinces to create a new Region. Toni Ponder currently is serving on the steering committee for the North American Region.

Dianne Prestridge provides risk control services, including training and driver evaluations, for more than 1,200 members of a Risk Pooling Trust nationwide. She brings more than 28 years of experience in safety and loss control, offering her expertise in evaluating, designing, and implementing safety programs, performing loss analyses, and providing consultative risk control services. An industry leader, she is an effective communicator, facilitator and negotiator and offers services in the areas of training, organizational development, human resources, behavior-based safety, operations and customer service. Dianne has obtained the Associate in Risk Management (ARM) designation, holds an Advanced Safety Certificate from the National Safety Council and is a member of the American Society of Safety Professionals.

Jon Quigley is the CIO of Disciplined Equities and a Portfolio Manager at Great Lakes Advisors, where he creates customized investment solutions that align with clients’ values while considering the impacts, both positive and negative, those investments can have on people and the planet.

Ibrahim Rashid is a research analyst for Marquette Associates and joined the firm in 2022. He is responsible for conducting due diligence on sustainable investment products and managers as well as developing macroeconomic and capital markets research. He is a member of Marquette’s sustainable investing group.

Kellie Ray, Partner – Not-for-Profit Services Group Plante & Moran, PLLC. Kellie is a partner with more than 20 years of experience, who has served over 100 not-for-profit and religious organizations in accounting, auditing, tax and management consulting. She leads the Firm’s not-for-profit practice. She has consulted with various not-for-profit organizations with respect to implementation of new auditing and accounting standards. Kellie serves as a firm-wide technical resource to engagement teams to resolve auditing and accounting issues within the not-for-profit industry group. Kellie coordinates and is a presenter at internal and external not-for-profit technical trainings.

Duane R. Roberts, CFA, is Director of Equities and Portfolio Manager at Dana Investment Advisors, having joined the Wisconsin-based asset management firm in 1999 to launch Dana’s institutional equity strategies. Duane graduated from Rice University with a BS in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics. He earned an MS in Statistics from Stanford University and an MBA from Southern Methodist University. Duane is a CFA® charterholder and a member of the CFA Institute and the CFA Society of Dallas-Fort Worth. He is a partner with Social Venture Partners Dallas and member of the SWAN Impact Network. Duane serves on the investment committees for the Roman Catholic Diocese of Dallas and Cistercian Abbey and Preparatory School.

Sr. Barbara Sable, SS.C.M. is a Sister of Saints Cyril and Methodius. She has an MA in School Counseling from the University of Dayton, OH, and an MSW from Loyola University in Chicago. She served as an elementary school teacher and high school teacher and school counselor in New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut and South Carolina, and as Program Director for Catholic Charities in Gary, IN. She currently serves as President of the Sisters of Saints Cyril and Methodius in Danville, PA.

Joseph Scott is the Finance Director for Dominican Sisters of Peace. His office is located in Columbus Ohio. Joe began with the
Dominican Sisters in April of 2006 and led the formation of the Finance Office during the merger that formed Dominican Sisters of Peace in 2009. Joe is responsible for all financial aspects of financial reporting, budgeting, fleet management, and investment performance. Joe has an MBA from Capital University and a BBA with a concentration in Accounting from Ohio University. Joe is a Certified Public Account, practiced public accounting for six years, and worked as the Director of Investment Management for a publicly traded company for seven years prior to his employment with the Dominican Sisters.

Sr. Jo Ann Showalter, SP After 7 years on the formation team for the Sisters of Providence Seattle, WA, she was able to spend a year finishing her Masters’ degree, then spent a year working with their senior and infirm Sisters at a Congregation owned facility. She then spent 10 years on the Provincial Council, working more specifically with drivers, cars, infirm sisters, and their residential moves. It was a Vatican appointment to enter into the role of "Pontifical" Commissary. She is now in her second term. The Sisters are good to her and there are always events and activities happening. There are sad events and happenings also but she will/can discuss them during the conference.

Sr. Joan Stoverink, ASC joined the Ruma Area Support Team in August, 2022. She holds a BS in Elementary Education and a Masters in Pastoral Studies from Loyola in Chicago. Her ministries have included classroom teaching, religious education/pastoral service in rural parishes; English tutoring to immigrant children, and formation ministry with the Adorers. Recently, she completed 3 ½ years of service in the Congregational Novitiate of the Adorers in Rome. Presently, Joan is part of a Community Life team at Benedictine Living Community at the Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows-Belleville, IL, assisting Sisters in Independent Living.

Katie Thiemann brings her passion for excellent, accessible Catholic education and her advancement skills to Partners in Mission while also serving as Director of Leadership Giving at Cor Jesu Academy, an all-girls secondary school owned and operated by the Apostles of the Sacred Heart, in St. Louis, Missouri. Katie joined Cor Jesu as the Director of Advancement in 2003, overseeing the fund-raising, events, marketing, communications and alumnae relations roles and later also added the Admissions and Corporate Partners functions into her team. Under her leadership at Cor Jesu as Director of Advancement, annual fund and event revenue grew from $250,000 to $1,300,000 annually. She was instrumental in creating a new program and position for Corporate Partners which has engaged 43 new corporate partners, over $200,000 in scholarships and internships for current Cor Jesu students and alumnae college students. Major gift initiatives and capital campaigns in the last 15 years at Cor Jesu totaled $18,000,000. The most recent campaign, completed in 2017, was a $10,000,000 campaign and included a new performance gymnasium, student commons, performing arts space, and four active learning classrooms. A focused effort on Endowment and Financial Aid gifts has grown a $1,800,000 Endowment Fund to $10,200,000 in the last eleven years and a 400% increase in annual financial aid awarded. In 2019, Katie moved into a newly created role as Director of Leadership Giving which is focused on cultivating and soliciting major donors as well as advancing a planned giving program for Cor Jesu.

Sr. Barbara Thomas, ASC is a Connecticut native, she grew up in the greater New Haven, CT area. She entered the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus after graduating from Sacred Heart Academy (Hamden, CT) in 1971 and professed her perpetual vows as a sister in 1979. She began her ministry in elementary education and later went on to teach at Catholic high schools owned by her congregation, across the country, including Cor Jesu Academy in St. Louis and her alma mater, Sacred Heart Academy, in Connecticut. While ministering in St. Louis, she obtained a master’s degree in educational administration from St.
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

Louis University and transitioned into the ministry of educational administration, serving as principal of schools in St. Louis and in her hometown in CT. In 2007, Sr. Barbara returned to Cor Jesu Academy as the school’s first-ever president. She served Cor Jesu for 12 years. She was appointed provincial superior of the United States Province of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in July of 2019 and continues to serve in this position.

Sr. Dawn Tomazewski, SP entered the Congregation on August 23, 1975, and has been a Sister of Providence for 42 years. She graduated from Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College with a bachelor’s degree in communications, and also earned a master’s degree in journalism from the University of North Carolina. In addition, she has a master’s degree in theology from Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. Sister Dawn ministered as a teacher at Marywood School in Orange, California, and taught at Mother Theodore Guerin High School, now known as Guerin College Preparatory High School, in Chicago. She later ministered as director of communications and an instructor at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and as the Congregation’s director of communications and development director of the Mission Advancement office. Sister Dawn has also ministered as communications and media coordinator for the Office of Catholic Education at the Archdiocese of Chicago, and in various other communications roles. Currently, Sister Dawn is a member of the Congregation’s Leadership Team, having been elected in 2011 and re-elected in 2016 to serve as General Superior. She began her second term as General Superior in 2021.

Matt Wade is currently CFO/Treasurer for the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine in Cleveland, Ohio. He served in congregational finance positions with the Marist Fathers & Brothers in Washington, DC and later worked as CFO for the Medical Mission Sisters in Philadelphia. Matt worked as Associate Director of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men from 2001-05. He also has experience in Latin America, having worked in Peru. He has assisted the NRRO as a consultant for the Planning and Implementation Process. Matt was involved with RCRI’s development committee for the new TRENDS Versions 2013 and 2015 and 2021. He holds degrees in Business Administration from John Carroll University and Religion & Religious Education from The Catholic University of America. He has also previously served on the RCRI Board.

Stephen M. Waldorf is a principal partner and managing director of Waldorf Risk Solutions. Graduating from the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. with a Bachelor of Arts degree, Stephen joined the family brokerage firm and has been there for over 30 years. He further developed his knowledge and bridged his skills by working in London at Lloyds and with international markets. Stephen maintains insurance licenses in over 28 states. He excels in designing, structuring, and implementing alternative risk transfer vehicles on behalf of Catholic Dioceses, religious orders and not-for-profit entities throughout North America. His expertise has been called upon to lecture on risk management publicly and privately, analyze policy forms and consult on program structures and coverages for numerous clients. He has completed the two-year Pastoral Formation program through the Diocese of Rockville Centre and received the Caritas Medal from Molloy College. Stephen has a passion for aviation and holds multiple certifications including his certification as a flight instructor and flight instructor instrument rating. Although his true passion rests in his love and devotion to his family, four children and his close friends, many of whom are clients.

Dee Walsh joined the MHI team as Chief Operating Officer in 2017, with 35 years of previous affordable housing experience. As a member of the Executive Team, Dee helps to set strategic direction for MHI and its wholly owned CDFI subsidiary Mercy Community Capital. Under her leadership, MHI collaboratively crafts a real estate strategy that represents our national footprint and ensures all MHI teams and offices are meeting core
Speaker Bios – 2023 National Conference

values, financial, operational and impact performance expectations. Prior to MHI she was COO for the Network for Oregon Affordable Housing (NOAH), a CDFI. Dee has also served as the EVP for Network and Corporate Affairs for the Housing Partnership Network, a housing advocate, and Executive Director at REACH Community Development, an affordable developer. Dee holds a Certificate of Achieving Excellence in Community Development from Harvard University and a Masters degree in Urban Planning from the University of Washington. She is the co-author of the book Navigating Community Development.

Kate Ward, CPA. Kate is a partner at KEB with over 20 years of experience working with religious communities and their related ministries. Kate is a certified public accountant who has assisted religious communities with audit and review services, financial reporting guidance, reconfiguration consulting and management consulting, including the comprehensive financial analysis of operations and strategic planning.

Mollie Werwas is a founding Member of Airdo Werwas, LLC. Ms. Werwas practices with the firm’s insurance coverage and health care litigation groups. She has represented clients at the state and national level in matters involving complex insurance coverage issues, including personal injury claims, long-tail liability matters, uninsured motorist claims, business interruption claims, and catastrophic property losses. She has counseled clients in drafting manuscript coverage agreements and amendments, tendering matters for defense and indemnification by third parties, and preparing reservation of rights and denial of coverage letters. Ms. Werwas has also worked with clients in both prosecuting and defending declaratory judgment actions relating to insurance coverage. In addition to her work in the insurance coverage area, Ms. Werwas also represents not-for-profit nursing homes in the defense of litigated claims. She has experience handling a wide range of subrogation claims, including product defect claims, construction actions, employee dishonesty, and traditional tort claims. In this context, she has worked with experts in many disciplines, from the initial stages of investigating causes and origins of losses and injuries, preserving evidence and participating in all phases of litigation. Ms. Werwas has authored articles for the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel on issues relating to the duty to defend and coverage in construction defect claims. She has also presented webinars for her clients relating to cyber liability insurance and preparedness, social media issues, and insurance record retention policies. She received both her undergraduate degree, summa cum laude, and her law degree, summa cum laude, from Southern Illinois University.

Laura Wicklander West is a Director of Client Service at Great Lakes Advisors and has worked with religious communities for ten years. Previously, Laura worked as a social worker and on the business side of nonprofit organizations and utilizes this background in her current role.

Courtney Wicks has served as the Executive Director of IASJ since October 2021. Wicks is an experienced professional with proven management skills and a strong record of accomplishment in the development and implementation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) strategies, policies, and objectives. She assumed her duties on October 18, 2021. Courtney Wicks has 15 years of experience in the development and implementation of strategies, policies, and practices that advance diversity, equity, and inclusion (“DE&I”). Courtney began her career as a community organizer. She was most effective at building consensus and bridges between community organizations and institutional leadership on public policy initiatives concerning criminal justice reform, economic inclusion, environmental justice, health equity, and school equity and access. Most recently, Wicks held the position of Senior Vice President for Community Development at the Peyser Real Estate Group. At Peyser, she worked across departments to assure that the company’s real estate development projects and investment strategy were aligned with the
diverse needs of communities in underinvested areas. Courtney Wicks earned a B.S. in Business Management at Saint Peter’s University and is currently earning an M.S. in Organizational Leadership and Development at Columbia University (2022).

Felipe Witchger co-founded the Francesco Collaborative to organize impact investors, entrepreneurs, and movement leaders and catalyze new culture changing possibilities. By restructuring power and participation in business and finance, Felipe believes we can unleash the courage, collaboration, and capital needed to tackle the social and environmental challenges we face. Felipe was the Founding Executive Director of the Community Purchasing Alliance (CPA) where he spent 10 years building and operating a purchasing cooperative that was entirely designed, governed, and owned by its member churches, schools, and movement partners. In 2020, Felipe led CPA to mobilize $20 million in facilities contracts and solar projects, shifting 45% to Black and Brown-owned businesses. Felipe served for 4 years on the founding Board of Start.coop — an accelerator cultivating the next generation of cooperative businesses at scale. Prior to CPA and Start.coop, Felipe led climate and clean energy research and business development initiatives at IHS Cambridge Energy Research Associates (now S&P Global) and Groundswell. Felipe holds a degree in Energy Studies and Economics from the University of Notre Dame.