



**The National Conference of Veterans Affairs
Catholic Chaplains (NCVACC)**

Established: 1985

Endorsement: Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA
www.ncvacc.net

2022 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE

THEME: *Moral Injury:*

Invisible Wounds and The Challenges to Catholic Ministry

October 24-28, 2022

President's Message

June 5, 2022

Solemnity of Pentecost

Dear NCVACC Members and VA Catholic Chaplains!

With God's help, we will finally have our Annual Educational Conference this year! The last time we had one was in October 2018, in New Orleans, LA. The pandemic intervened since then, and we couldn't gather as brothers in the ministry. During that time as well, the new Vicar for Veterans Affairs, Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, DD, was appointed. For many of us, this will be the first occasion to meet and visit with him.

Our study on the theme *Moral Injury: Invisible Wounds and The Challenges to Catholic Ministry*, can assist us enormously in our Catholic ministry to the Veterans. The expertise of Dr. Jason Nieuwsma, PhD on moral injury, including on the integration of spirituality and health, is a valuable help for our reflection. Our very own Rev. Charles Barnes, SJ will help us deal with its implications to our Catholic ministry through sharing and workshop.

The pandemic has changed our lives in many ways. The uniqueness of our experience in the struggle to be resilient prompts us to share this perspective with one another. What lessons have we learned? Where did we look for and find inspiration to tread on? How did we overcome our fears? Why is the challenge to sustain our spirit in the midst of the pandemic so arduous and tough? The workshop on our pandemic experience can hopefully allow us to share, reflect and pray together as Christ's wounded ministers of healing.

The University Guest House (UGH) at <https://www.universityguesthouse.com/> has been home to us for many Annual Conference meetings, and we're coming back to Salt Lake City, UT! The UGH has modern facilities, including an elegantly furnished Chapel. Also, please check out our website regularly (www.ncvacc.net) for updates and other materials related to the Conference.

This is the point where the President would usually remind you that attendance in the Annual Conference is Archbishop Broglio's requirement for continued endorsement in the VA. But you already knew that! 😊 Instead, allow me to express my delight at the prospect of meeting you all again, God willing, in person and in good health!

Yours truly,


Alejandro De Jesus, PhD
President