



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

Established: 1985

Endorsement: Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA  
[www.ncvacc.net](http://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](http://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



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA  
Office of the Archbishop

29 June 2022

Dear Monsignor/Father,

On the Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul I am pleased to send you my best wishes from the Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center in Washington, DC.

It is time to begin planning for your participation the required National Conference of VA Catholic Chaplains to take place. It will be held at from 24 to 28 October next at the University of Utah Guest House and Conference Center, Salt Lake City, UT. The theme is: *Moral Injury: Invisible Wounds and The Challenges to Catholic Ministry.*

As you know, all full-time and part-time VA priests endorsed by the Archdiocese for the Military Services are required to attend this training event in order to enhance your professional competence and maintain your ecclesiastical endorsement.

If you have any questions about your attendance, please write to me. While a simple e-mail will suffice: [archbishop@milarch.org](mailto:archbishop@milarch.org) , I expect the motivation for any exception to the required attendance to be sufficiently serious.

The conference also represents a unique opportunity to gather as a presbyterate in service to the VA. The obligation to participate is a serious one. Each of you should have already received information about this event. My Vicar for Veterans Affairs, the Most Reverend Joseph Coffey, is also planning to join me for the training.

Registration forms and details of the event are available on the NCVACC website [www.ncvacc.net](http://www.ncvacc.net). Please bring an alb, white stole and breviary with you for the Conference. Attire is otherwise casual.

Ever grateful for the important ministry that is yours and invoking abundant blessings upon you and your work with the infirm Veterans and their families, I remain

Fraternally in Christ,

(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio  
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA



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**Salt Lake City, UT**

**Instructions for the Traveler (ITT)**

1. Obtain verbal or email approval from your supervisor to begin the process for travel approval in your campus.
  - a. Next, proceed to complete the process as required by your campus. Various stations allow online application or paper forms to complete, or a combination of both.
  - b. No need for ACES, which is currently only for federal non-VA travels.
2. Mail in your completed Conference Registration form, along with your check payment. Registration form and complete payment must be received by September 30, 2022.
  - a. No credit card transaction is available for this annual conference.
  - b. Receipts for reimbursement will be distributed during the annual conference or after.
3. Proceed to book your room using Group ID **NCVACC Annual Conference 2022** at either of these two options – Choose only ONE. Deadline for booking: September 23, 2022. Room rates are the SAME for either option.
  - a. At the University Guest House, # 888-416-4075. (Limited to 30 rooms only).
  - b. At Salt Lake City Marriott University Park, # 800-228-9290.
  - c. *Note: The Hotel where you book will need your credit information NOT for lodging payment (NCVACC will handle this) but for possible incidentals and personal expenses.*
4. Payment scheme for the Conference varies depending on the following:
  - a. Membership/Non-membership status.
  - b. Type of employment status (FT, PT, Fee, etc.)
  - c. Payment/Non-payment of membership fees.
5. Regarding transportation, bear in mind the following:
  - a. Salt Lake City is a major hub of Delta Airlines while many other airlines fly into Salt Lake City as well.
  - b. Light rail transportation to the hotel venue from the airport is very inexpensive and convenient.
6. For “Useful Tips on Filling Out VA Forms for Travel, Conference, Etc.,” please check out the website at [www.ncvacc.net](http://www.ncvacc.net).
7. For further questions, please contact:
  - a. Fr. Patrick Fitzsimons, Treasurer (for fees and payment inquiries): [dublin60@icloud.com](mailto:dublin60@icloud.com) or call 859-229-5713. *NOTE: Please leave a voicemail to avoid being considered spam.*
  - b. Fr. Alejandro De Jesus, President (for other inquiries): [ncvacc.catholic@gmail.com](mailto:ncvacc.catholic@gmail.com) or call 210-240-5335. *NOTE: Please leave a voicemail to avoid being considered spam.*



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**CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

*(Please PRINT, FILL UP, then MAIL with Check PAYMENT)*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Email Address (not VA): \_\_\_\_\_

NCVACC Member:  Yes  No \*\*\*\*\* NACC VA-BCC:  Yes  No

Employment:  Full Time  Part Time  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Education & Tuition:** (Choose only One)

- \$400.00 Members, Dues Paid by 6-30-2022 (With Discount)  
 \$550.00 Members Regular, Dues Not Paid (NO Discount)  
 \$475.00 Members VA-BCC, Dues Not Paid (NO Discount)  
 \$550.00 Non-Members, Full-Time  
 \$475.00 Non-Members, Part-Time, Other

**Meals & Extras:** (Add this) \$300.00

(All Participants: Breakfast, Lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; Dinners on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. Wednesday dinner on your own.)

**Lodging:** (Add this) \$630.00

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL**

**Note 1:** Special Diet Requests. Please check all that apply for you.

- No Red Meat  Fish Only  Chicken Only  
 Gluten-Free  Vegetarian  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note 2:** Deadline for Submission of Registration and Payment: September 30, 2022. No credit card payments available. Please make checks payable to "NCVACC" and send to:

Chaplain Patrick Fitzsimons  
1065 Ashmore Drive  
Nashville, TN 37211



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**NCVACC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

**A. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Other Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address:<sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Ordination: \_\_\_\_\_ Place: \_\_\_\_\_

**B. BOARD CHAPLAIN CERTIFICATION<sup>2</sup>**

BCC Certifying Body: \_\_\_\_\_  
Certification Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(NOTE: For NACC BCC-VA chaplains, please submit a copy of certificate for verification.)*

**C. SPECIALTY CERTIFICATION<sup>3</sup>**

Area of Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_  
Certifying Body: \_\_\_\_\_  
Certification Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

**D. VA ASSIGNMENT**

Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
Facility Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Facility Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**E. SCHEDULE OF FEES**

- \$150.00 Full-Time  
 \$ 75.00 BCC-VA (Enclose a copy of NACC VA-BCC certificate)<sup>4</sup>  
 \$ 75.00 Part-Time (Also for Fee Basis, Contract, Intermittent)

*Note 1: Payment is due on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.*

*Note 2: Please PRINT, FILL UP, then MAIL with Check PAYMENT payable to NCVACC to:*

Chaplain Patrick Fitzsimons  
1065 Ashmore Drive  
Nashville, TN 37211

<sup>1</sup> No VA contact details (Phone, email, etc.)

<sup>2</sup> Needed for GS-11 and Above (Cf. VA Handbook 5005/135, 09-24-2020)

<sup>3</sup> Needed for GS-12 (Cf. VA Handbook 5005/135, 09-24-2020)

<sup>4</sup> NACC gives \$75 membership fee discount after submitting copy of your paid NCVACC membership dues.



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**Conference Education Schedule**

**Monday, October 24**

- 8:00 a.m. Travel Day for Participants
- 9:00 a.m. Board Meeting
- 1:00 p.m. Arrival of Participants/Registration
- 4:30 p.m. MASS: Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, DD, Presider
- 5:00 p.m. Socials
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner

**Tuesday, October 25**

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. Registration (continued)
- 8:30 a.m. Opening Welcome
  - Rev. Alejandro De Jesus, PhD: NCVACC President
  - Mr. Perry Hacker: Director, University of Utah Guesthouse & Conference Center
- 9:00 a.m. Workshop: *Finding God in the Midst of Tragedy: Reflections on COVID, Chaplaincy and Human Resilience, A Dialogue on Coping*
  - ❖ Rev. Charles Barnes, SJ, Chaplain, VA Puget Sound, Seattle, WA
  - ❖ Mental Health Provider: TBA
- 9:45 a.m. Prayer and Reflection
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 10:30 a.m. Small Group Sharing
- 11:15 a.m. MASS: Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, DD, Presider
- 12:00 noon Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Housekeeping Announcements
- 1:15 p.m. Dr. Jason Nieuwsma: *Indications, Interventions, and Interconnections in the Care of the Morally Injured - Part 1*
- 2:15 p.m. Break
- 2:45 p.m. Dr. Jason Nieuwsma: *Indications, Interventions, and Interconnections in the Care of the Morally Injured - Part 2*
- 3:45 p.m. Open Form
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner



Wednesday, October 26

- 6:45 a.m. Morning Prayer and MASS: Bishop Joseph L. Coffey, DD, Presider  
7:30 a.m. Breakfast  
8:00 a.m. Rev. Charles Barnes, SJ: *Dealing with Invisible Wounds: Spiritual, Religious and Sacramental Considerations for Catholic Ministry*  
9:00 a.m. Workshop on Catholic Chaplain Strategies and Interventions  
❖ Individual Reflection on Questions  
❖ Small Group Sharing (Participants will have assigned groups)  
10:00 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. Group Reporting  
12:00 p.m. Lunch.  
1:00 p.m. Conference ends for the day. Dinner on your own.

Thursday, October 27

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer  
7:30 a.m. Breakfast  
9:00 a.m. NCVACC Annual Membership Meeting – Part I  
a. *Financial & Audit Reports*  
❖ Rev. Patrick Fitzsimons, NCVACC Treasurer  
❖ Rev. Thomas Kirchhoefer, Chair – Auditing Committee  
b. *Membership Report*  
❖ Rev. Cosmas Archibong, Membership Committee Chair  
10:00 a.m. Break  
10:30 a.m. NCVACC Annual Membership Meeting – Part II  
c. *NCVACC Website Report*  
❖ Rev. Ramon Saavedra, Website Manager  
d. *Closing Remarks: Plans and Projects*  
❖ Rev. Alejandro De Jesus, PhD: NCVACC President  
11:30 a.m. Executive Board Meeting  
Free Time for Members  
12:00 noon Lunch  
2:00 p.m. Talk: The Most Rev. Joseph L. Coffey, DD  
Auxiliary Bishop for Veterans Affairs  
2:45 p.m. Talk: The Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, JCD  
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA  
3:30 p.m. Break  
4:00 p.m. MASS: The Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, JCD, Presider  
5:00 p.m. Socials  
5:30 p.m. Dinner

Friday, October 28

- 6:45 a.m. Morning Prayer, followed by MASS: Presider - Fr. Alejandro De Jesus, President  
7:30 a.m. Breakfast and Departure (Travel Day)

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### **USEFUL TIPS ON FILLING OUT VA FORMS FOR TRAVEL, CONFERENCE, ETC.**

For purposes of filling out forms required by some VA stations, the following suggested conference details may be useful:

1. Event Objectives:
  - a. Describe the evolution of the concept of moral injury and challenges to identify, define and measure it.
  - b. Identify emerging therapeutic, spiritual and collaborative care approaches that support care of Veterans experiencing moral injury.
  - c. Engage in experiential exercises to enhance opportunities for compassion and interconnectedness in the context of Catholic sacramental and spiritual ministry.
  - d. Process varying experiences of Catholic chaplains working with COVID-19 and its effects through prayer, reflection and healing.
  - e. Strengthen fellowship through sacramental gatherings, ritual, and community encounters.
  - f. Participate in organizing the Conference's activities in view of its goals towards unity of purpose, vision and fellowship.
  
2. Purposes of Travel:
  - a. Ecclesiastical Endorser's Conference required for renewal of endorsement.
  - b. Endorsement needed for VA employment.
  - c. Topics for the Conference focus on Moral Injury and how Catholic chaplaincy must integrate this for effective chaplain interventions and consultations.
  - d. Talks and workshops will deal with improvement and evaluation of strategies in support of Catholic sacramental and spiritual priorities.
  
3. Justification for Face to Face Event (Why it cannot be completed online):
  - a. Physical attendance is a requisite for renewal of endorsement of chaplain status.
  - b. Conference provides in-person research discussion and workshop will dwell on moral injury as it affects Veterans needing spiritual and pastoral care.
  - c. Conference topics will touch on research-based chaplain interventions for effective patient care.
  - d. This Annual Conference is not offered virtually.

*ADDENDUM:* Outing opportunities are available at University Guest House Website Attractions<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.universityguesthouse.com/Area-Attractions> and [All Attractions in Salt Lake City](#)