



**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)

**2024 ANNUAL EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**THEME: *Full Hybrid 38 Experience: Professionalizing VA Catholic Chaplains  
and Strategies on LGBTQ+ Ministry and Suicide Prevention***

**May 13-17, 2024**

**Hampton Inn Nashville Vanderbilt, Nashville, TN**

2 February 2024

Feast of the Purification of the Lord

To All Our NCVACC Members and VA Catholic Chaplains:

We are grateful to the Most Rev. Timothy P. Broglio, JCD, Archbishop for the Military Services, USA, for his decision to conduct our educational conference biennially. We had our last annual conference in 2022, hence our Spring schedule for 2024.

Having considered the members' concerns and current ministry tasks, the Board has approved for this year's theme the priorities in three crucial areas: (1) Catholic chaplain ministry within Hybrid 38 standards; (2) ministry to the LGBTQ+ members of the Veteran population; and (3) suicide prevention and postvention competencies.

VA chaplaincy has been designated as Hybrid 38 with all its requirements, and questions still arise regarding standards vis-à-vis performance evaluation, practical challenges on transfer, promotion, etc. How do we navigate through all that? What strategies and kinds of interventions can we implement concerning the LGBTQ+ population? What is the available training and updating for chaplains in the VA on dealing with the reality and problem of suicide?

Among the invited speakers are: The National Director of Chaplain Services, Chaplain Kimberly Willis and the National Chaplain Program Coordinator for Suicide Prevention, Chaplain Paul Dordal, the Executive Director of the National Association of Catholic Chaplains (NACC) Ms. Erica Cohen Moore, and Rev. Bruce T. Morrill, SJ, Distinguished Professor of Theology Divinity School, Vanderbilt University.

The Hampton Inn Nashville Vanderbilt is not only a comfortable venue for our gathering but is also conveniently located just across the Cathedral of the Incarnation where we will hold our liturgical celebrations. As usual, there will be a good half-day to tour this wonderful city: savor its food, enjoy its music (jazz, pop, rock, bluegrass, country, plus MORE!), visit its landmarks, and just meet the great people of Nashville! So, just get there, and enjoy the time with us!

Yours truly,

Alejandro J. De Jesus, PhD  
President