



Unity in Charity

where NURSING, MINISTRY and CATHOLIC MISSION meet

Dear Potential member of the Board of Directors/Committee Chair,

Thank you for your interest in serving in a leadership role in the National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. (NACN-USA). We recognize that volunteers like you, who commit their time and share their passion for uniting nurses across the United States, are the heart of our organization.

NACN-USA traces our roots to 1909 when the first local council of Catholic Nurses, the Guild of St. Radegone for Nurses, formed in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1924, the International Catholic Guild of Nurses (ICGN) was founded in Milwaukee, Wisconsin under the spiritual direction of Fr. Edward J. Garesche, S.J. The first International Committee of Catholic Nurses met in Lourdes, France in 1933 and is now known as CICIAMS (Comité International Catholique des Infirmières et Assistantes Médico-Sociales and in English: The International Catholic Committee of Nurses and Medico-Social Assistants). International meetings were also held in Rome (1935) and London (1937) where His Holiness Pope Pius XI expressed, *“that ways and means be found to emphasize the necessity of bringing all Catholic nurses within the influence of Catholic Associations of Nurses.”* At the 3rd International Congress through his spokesperson G. Cardinal Pizzardo, Pope Pius XI shared a concern,

“...The exercise of the profession of nurse, is surely one of those which offer the greatest possibility for the apostolate, but we must not forget that the nurse, in the exercise of her profession, has to employ all sorts of technical means, and lives in a materialistic atmosphere, exposed to the danger of a limited interior piety only, dissociated from the profession and exterior practice enjoyed by the Church. Furthermore, modern theories seek to penetrate the minds of Catholic nurses and to make them become unconsciously strong agents for the propagation of eugenics and neo-Malthusianism [population control]. It is necessary, then, to protect them by means of Catholic Action, which has for one of its duties to sustain and fortify them in their professional and Christian Formation.”

CICIAMS is a Private Association of the Faithful recognized by ecclesiastical authority, with a close working relationship with the Holy See through the Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Assistance of Healthcare Workers which was combined with three other councils by His Holiness Pope Francis in 2017 into the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development (IHD), under the leadership of Peter Cardinal Turkson. NACN-USA's second president, Marylee Meehan, RN, MA, was appointed by Pope Benedict to service on the Pontifical Council which she did from 2011-2017.

Back in the 1930's in the United States, the ICGN adopted a new constitution and bylaws of a “national character” and changed to the National Federation of Catholic Nurses with headquarters in Chicago, Illinois. Local Councils then formed across the United States. Some of those that continue to the present are located in the Diocese of Youngstown, Albany, Chicago,

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Fall River, Joliet and Libertyville. Around 1942 ICGN became known as National Council of Catholic Nurses (NCCN) and then in 1993 as the National Association of Catholic Nurses, U.S.A. (NACN-USA). NACN-USA was formed under the auspices of the Diocese of Joliet, Illinois, with the permission and spiritual advisement of Bishop Joseph L. Imesch and is a full voting member of CICIAMS. In October 1996, NACN-USA was listed in the Kenedy Directory, the official Catholic directory. See the website for a more in-depth history.

Continuing the mission of ICGN and NCCN, the NACN-USA gives nurses of different backgrounds, but the same Roman Catholic values, the opportunity to promote: 1) Catholic moral principles within nursing, 2) the Christian vocation within the world and 3) the opportunities for professional development. This approach to Roman Catholic doctrine focuses on education program, spiritual nourishment, patient advocacy and the integration of faith and health. As we continue to share our faith and a values with each other, and with healthcare providers, we simultaneously reach outward to the larger Church and also our communities, as we offer support to those in need.

To begin the application process, please fill out the attached documents which are also located on the NACN-USA website at: <https://nacn-usa.org/about-us/volunteer-committee/>:

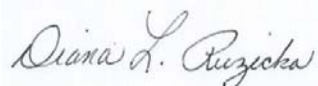
1. Profile Information Sheet
2. Commitment to the Mission and Objective of NACN-USA
3. Pastoral Letter of Reference (format included)
4. Character Reference (format not included)

Please have your Pastoral Letter of Recommendation, Character Reference and all the documents, scanned and emailed to the NACN-USA office at catholicnurses@nacn-usa.org.

For more information, visit our website at www.nacn-usa.org. The bylaws with position duties are available online at the bottom of the Board of Directors page (<https://nacn-usa.org/about-us/board-of-directors/>).

Again, we thank you for your interest. We look forward to you helping to unite nurses in your parish, diocese and across the nation.

In Jesus' Holy Name



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