

MINISTRY

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## A Nun's Life Ministry bids farewell to co-founder Sister Julie Vieira

**November 10, 2017, Toledo, Ohio** – Sister Julie Vieira, IHM, who cofounded A Nun's Life in 2006 and served as co-director with Sister Maxine Kollasch, IHM, has announced that she will be leaving the ministry.

"My 11 years with A Nun's Life Ministry has been deeply fulfilling," said Sister Vieira. "It has been amazing to walk with people on their journey as they discover and grow in their vocation. I have loved this mission. I have also loved working with Catholic sisters and nuns from across the world and envision continuing that in the future."



"I am deeply grateful for all the years in ministry with Sister Julie and for the significant contributions she has made," said Sister Kollasch. Sister Kollasch will serve as Executive Director of A Nun's Life, building on a strong foundation infused with a spirit of innovation, hospitality, and joy.

In her role with <u>A Nun's Life</u>, Sister Vieira has been a pioneer in innovative uses of internet technologies and social media on behalf of vocations and religious life. She has also been a great advocate for Catholic sisters and nuns in the public sphere and has worked tirelessly to counter stereotypes and present authentic images of religious life. Through the ministry, Sister Vieira has collaborated widely across religious communities and across many sectors including spirituality, technology, and media.

Sister Vieira authored the ministry's first blog, describing daily life as a sister with insight, joy, and humor. It was among the very first blogs ever written by a Catholic sister, and on it she encouraged people to engage with her, with one another, and with the lived tradition religious life.

She helped to create the ministry's social media presence at a time when Facebook, Twitter, and other major social platforms were just beginning to emerge. Sister Vieira also helped to create a variety of podcasts that made use of new technology for livestreaming on the internet. A Nun's Life podcasts were the among the first livestreaming podcasts to be entirely created, hosted, and produced by Catholic sisters.

A Nun's Life from the start has been a place where people around the world can connect first-hand with Catholic sisters. In this way, the ministry continues to bring the tradition of religious life in areas such as discernment, prayer, spirituality and community into conversation with people's everyday lives.

"I will miss being at A Nun's Life and I am delighted that the ministry is flourishing and growing in new ways," said Sister Vieira. "A Nun's Life will always remain close to my heart."

A Nun's Life Ministry (NL) is an internet-based ministry at aNunsLife.org and on social media. The ministry was founded in 2006 on the belief that each person is called by God to a vocation that enriches the individual and the world. A Nun's Life fosters a culture of vocation online by engaging with people in 150 countries about spirituality, discernment, religious life, and many other topics. It does this in highly interactive and pastoral ways, using blogs, livestreaming podcasts and chat, and social media events. A Nun's Life also works with religious institutes on using online presence for relationship building. A 501(c)(3) organization with global outreach, A Nun's Life Ministry is based in Toledo, Ohio.