

NEWS RELEASE

Nationwide study of Catholic sisters' use of social media launched



Toledo, Ohio, January 5, 2016 – A Nun’s Life Ministry (NL), a pioneer in using social technologies for online ministry, is sponsoring one of the first comprehensive studies of its kind on the use of the Internet and social media by U.S. Catholic sisters and nuns. The study is funded by a grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation.

Catholic sisters and nuns are increasingly using the Internet and social media to reach out on behalf of people in need, to nurture relationships, and to proclaim the Good News. Sister Maxine Kollasch, co-founder of A Nun’s Life Ministry, notes that “the study is designed to provide insights to help women religious strengthen their online presence in service to mission, ministry, and membership.”

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) is conducting the study. The project involves two surveys that are being distributed in early January: one to all religious institutes of women in the U.S., and the other to all individual sisters and nuns nationwide. Focus groups will be held following the surveys.

“The results of the study will be used to develop educational and other resources to assist Catholic sisters and nuns in moving forward,” says co-founder Sister Julie Vieira. She adds that the study coincides with the 10th anniversary of A Nun’s Life Ministry. “From the start, A Nun’s Life helped online communities engage with Catholic sisters and nuns, using social technologies in innovative ways, says Sister Vieira. “The research project reflects A Nun’s Life’s ongoing spirit of service and innovation.”

For more information: S. Maxine Kollasch, IHM, sistermaxine@anunslife.org, 419-517-4087

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 from over 200 countries about spirituality, discernment, religious life, and many other topics. 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.

The **Conrad N. Hilton Foundation** was created in 1944 by international business pioneer Conrad N. Hilton, who founded Hilton Hotels and left his fortune to help the world’s disadvantaged and vulnerable people. The Foundation currently conducts strategic initiatives in six priority areas: providing safe water, ending chronic homelessness, preventing substance use, helping children affected by HIV and AIDS, supporting transition-age youth in foster care, and extending Conrad

Hilton's support for the work of Catholic Sisters. In addition, following selection by an independent international jury, the Foundation annually awards the \$2 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize to a nonprofit organization doing extraordinary work to reduce human suffering. From its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants, distributing \$100 million in the U.S. and around the world in 2014. The Foundation's current assets are approximately \$2.5 billion. For more information, please visit www.hiltonfoundation.org.

The [Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate](#) (CARA) is a national, nonprofit, Georgetown University-affiliated research center that conducts social-scientific studies about the Catholic Church. Founded in 1964, CARA has three major dimensions to its mission: to increase the Church's self-understanding; serve the applied research needs of Church decision-makers; and advance scholarly research on religion.