

What is CMI?

Sisters of Charity Foundation of South Carolina, founded in 1996 as a ministry of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, is committed to supporting organizations that meet the needs of families and individuals in SC by addressing root causes as well as consequences of poverty. The Foundation does this through grantmaking, advocacy, capacity building and leadership.

Historically, sister-affiliated ministries have a long and distinguished record in serving communities struggling with the effects of poverty

in SC. With a deep appreciation of these ministries and a profound gratitude to Women Religious, the Collaboration for Ministry Initiative (CMI) was created to understand, strengthen and sustain these ministries in SC. Additionally, CMI seeks to address the relative isolation of many of the Women Religious ministering throughout the state by providing an infrastructure for communication and collaboration, offering opportunities to network, share resources, and helping to maintain support systems.

Beginning in 2003 with a research study that documented the needs and circumstances unique to Women Religious in SC, CMI has evolved into a focused and organized effort led by an Advisory Council of Women Religious and staff members at the Foundation. Since 2005, CMI has conducted a variety of activities including convening meetings, offering technical assistance, providing grants and hosting an annual conference for SC's Women Religious.

Sr. Melannie Svoboda, SND: Wonder, Courage and Hope



Sister Melannie Svoboda, SND, knows that life gives us rainy days from time to time, but she believes that with wonder, courage and hope, we can weather life's storms. From this belief, she chose her topic for the

November 2019 CMI Conference. Simply put, she believes people need all three of these virtues in this age.

"Wonder helps us maintain touch with the greater world... we need courage to face the contemporary world... and I chose hope because I need it so much. And if I need it, I bet there are a lot of other people who are struggling with hope," Sr. Melannie said.

In her speeches and books, Sr. Melannie reminds us that these virtues are important to everyone. But as Women Religious, these virtues are a part of us.

"When you look at the women that founded religious congregations, you find these three virtues. You find

their sense of wonder - especially their praise and wonder at God. Not only of God, but of people. How divinity is lived out in people... When you read the history of congregations - coming over in a boat, going by wagon train to the far west... these women were courageous!"

Sr. Melannie lives by these words and others that encourage her to trust fully in God. As a former teacher, director of formation and congregation leader, this fulltime writer and speaker lives a balanced life filled with wonder, courage, hope and love. These virtues help her to do good for others, and to find the good in everything.

CMI Grant Deadline

The Foundation has designated specific grant funds to support organizations led by or affiliated with Women Religious serving the needs of people experiencing poverty throughout SC.

CMI Strengthening Ministry grant applications are due by Tuesday, June 4, 2019. For more information, please contact Ericka Wooten at ewooten@sistersofcharitysc.com or 803-254-0230, ext. 18.

Your 2019 Advisory Council



The CMI Advisory Council, made up of three Women Religious serving in SC, leads the planning of the annual CMI conference each year. From selecting a featured speaker to designing each prayer service to complement the conference theme, the Advisory Council works closely with Foundation staff throughout the year to thoughtfully plan every detail of the CMI conference.

Sister Kathy Adamski, OSF, is currently the Manager of Pastoral Formation for the Diocese of Charleston where she works in staff development and formation with parish staffs and chancery personnel, as well as directing retreats and spiritual direction.

Sister Pamela Smith, SS.C.M., is a frequent presenter for adult faith formation. Sr. Pam has authored 14 books about Biblical spirituality and environmental ethics, as well as roughly 200 articles and poems published in literary and theological journals and religious magazines, including a biweekly column for The Catholic Miscellany.

Sister Mary Francis Bassick, DC, has been involved in Community Organization and Family and Neighborhood Center ministry in an administrative role For the past 35 years. Presently, she ministers as the Outreach Coordinator at St. Cyprian Outreach Center in Georgetown.

Do you have news for us?

*Do you know sisters who are new to the diocese,
or sisters who have left the diocese?*

We want to know about it.

Send an email to hdavenport@sistersofcharitysc.com.

Save the Date: 15th Annual CMI Conference

Wonder, Courage & Hope

Featured speaker:
Melannie Svoboda, SND
Nov. 1 – Nov. 3, 2019

Myrtle Beach Marriott Resort &
Spa at Grande Dunes

Join us at the 2019 CMI
Conference to experience a
weekend of learning, fun, fellowship
and relaxation.

More detailed information about
the conference will be mailed to
you later this summer.