

## Brief History,

**BACAR** originated in 1996 when thirteen Sisters and Associates from the San Francisco Bay Area came together for discussion and sharing of hopes for the future.

Two of these Associates initiated a gathering of Associates and Religious hoping that it would be an asset to all congregations.

This seed grew and took on many forms. Sisters and Associates assisted in facilitating the development of prayer groups for spirituality, discussion groups for open dialogue, and book clubs for research, information and socializing.

The next step was to sponsor annual conferences inviting speakers to present on topics of spirituality, leadership, charism, and social justice.

As Religious life and Association have evolved, so has BACAR. We continue to have a vision with the church of living out our vocation according to Gospel mandates. We provide one another with mutual support and friendship.

**1996** – BACAR's beginnings

**1997** – First Conference

**2010** – Quarterly Discussion Groups began

**2013** – Initiated BACAR website [www.bacar2.org](http://www.bacar2.org)

**2014** – Incorporated as a 501c3 non-profit organization

**2016** – Celebration BACAR's 20th Anniversary

**2018** – Sponsored Conference on Homelessness



**BACAR Logo:** The scallop shell is a symbol of baptism and for pilgrims a starting point from which they begin their pilgrimage.

This shell reminds us of our journey as associates and religious, pointing to the base which draws us closer to one another and our God.



*...We live in a dynamic and unfolding universe; ours is an open system of life. In light of an evolving universe where change is integral to the emergence of new life, we should welcome change as the very sign. To resist change is ultimately to resist Christ; it is to prevent evolution toward unity of life in the universe. To be Christ is to be 'on the way,' announcing the good news of the risen Christ through spiritual attitudes of poverty of being, humility, compassion, openness of heart and mind...*

*Ilia Delio, OSF, Christ in Evolution (Orbis Books: 2008)*

For more information visit [www.bacar2.org](http://www.bacar2.org)  
Contact Kathy Noether: [knoether@aol.com](mailto:knoether@aol.com)



**The Bay Area Conference of Associates and Religious (BACAR, Inc.)** is a network of women and men associates and religious who gather together for prayer, mutuality, inspiration, support and friendship.

To facilitate these goals BACAR sponsors discussion groups, conferences, and a website. These activities create opportunities for promoting, developing and nurturing lay-religious relationships, community and ministries in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas.

Associates and Members of Religious Institutes can remain connected, share information and actively engage on issues that are connected to the many ministries of the Church.

• **Who are Religious?** Religious are women and men who answer God's Call by committing their life to a distinct charism and ministry within the Church.

• **Who are Associates?** Associates are women and men who answer God's Call by choosing to walk with religious in the charism and ministry of their congregation within the Church.



## CURRENT MEMBERS OF BACAR BOARD 2017 2918



As Associates and religious on a journey together, we share...

- ✱ **Prayer** - our active communication with God
- ✱ **Mutuality** - the shared relationship between each of us, for the mutual benefit of all of us.
- ✱ **Inspiration** - literally, "breathing in" the grace of God
- ✱ **Friendship** - knowing, esteeming, loving each other and supporting one another to live the Gospel of Justice.



**Below:** Associates, Religious, & Friends advocate for those who are homeless at Hope Village, supporting one another



### Board Members Left to Right

**Kathy Noether, Co-Director** Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Associate,

**Judy Borland, Co-Director** Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Associate,

**Marilee Hearn,** Religious of the Sacred Heart Associate

**Enrique Mireles,** Sisters of Mercy Associate

**Kathi Goodman,** Sisters of the Holy Family Associate

**Penny Donovan,** Sisters of Sinsinawa Dominican Associate

**Yvonne Bondi,** Sister of Notre Dame de Namur

**Elizabeth Avalos,** Sister of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

**Carmella Huser,** Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Associate

**Sharon Corbitt,** Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary Associate

**Mary Becker,** Sister of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary

**Discussion Groups** meet in San Jose about the issue of Homelessness and how to advocate for change.



Discussion Group meets in Sunnyvale, to talk about Mary.

