

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026 - June

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**WE WALKED TOGETHER ONCE — AND
WE STILL WALK TOGETHER, FROM
FORMATION TO FLOURISHING**

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends and Next Steppers,

When the branches stay united to the vine, they bear much fruit. But as any gardener knows, a flourishing vine requires a solid trellis—an underlying support structure to help it grow, stretch, and thrive. I often think of The Next Step Network as that trellis, providing the points of connection that help us stay deeply rooted. This is exactly why our new tagline resonates so deeply: "We walked together once — and we still walk together, From Formation to Flourishing."



Elevating Our Community Structure

While our doors are always open to anyone who has shared in this unique formation background—and we love seeing you at our events across places like [Colorado](#) and [Ontario](#)—so many of you have expressed a desire for a tighter, more consistent day-to-day community.

To answer that call, we are officially launching our structured membership program this September. As a member, you will get access to two major new pillars of support:

- **Monthly Community Zoom Calls:** A structured 75-minute format designed to respect your time, featuring a 15-minute guest speaker, 30 minutes of interactive group discussion, and an optional 30 minutes of open networking. (We also need speakers and topics.)

- **Targeted Small Groups:** Curated circles bringing together men and women from different generations, stages of life, geographic regions, or professional tracks to offer real, ongoing accompaniment. (If you want to propose a group or lead one, please reach out.)

Ready to Take the Next Step?

If you are interested in these or other upcoming exclusive member benefits, let's connect:

- **Call or text me directly:** 512-993-5889
- **Sign up online:** Submit your information directly [online](#).

The incredible fruits I see in your lives every single day are what drive this mission forward. My highest priority is to build just enough structure to elevate your journey without creating a needless bureaucracy.

On a personal note, I simply love walking along with you. Your deep friendships, shared history, and holy ambition for a meaningful life in the world are a constant gift to me.

Un fuerte abrazo,

Kristian Jalloway

Executive Director, *The Next Step Network*

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Taking the next step after religious, consecrated, or priestly life is both courageous and complex. The Next Step Network exists so you never have to do it alone. When you become a member, you gain access to a trusted community of people who share your background — and who are committed to helping each other flourish in faith, work, and life.

Here's what you receive as a member:

- Access to mentors and coaches who understand this transition
- Invitation to private small groups and local chapters
- Exclusive webinars and professional development opportunities
- Member-only events, retreats, and online gatherings
- Access to the internal directory and networking platform
- Opportunities to collaborate on meaningful projects
- A voice in shaping the future of the Network

Are you in? [Submit your application](#) and let us know where you are on your journey.

BAND OF BROTHERS EVENTS

On May 16, a group gathered for the Detroit Dinner. Here's what Daren Weisbrod had to say:

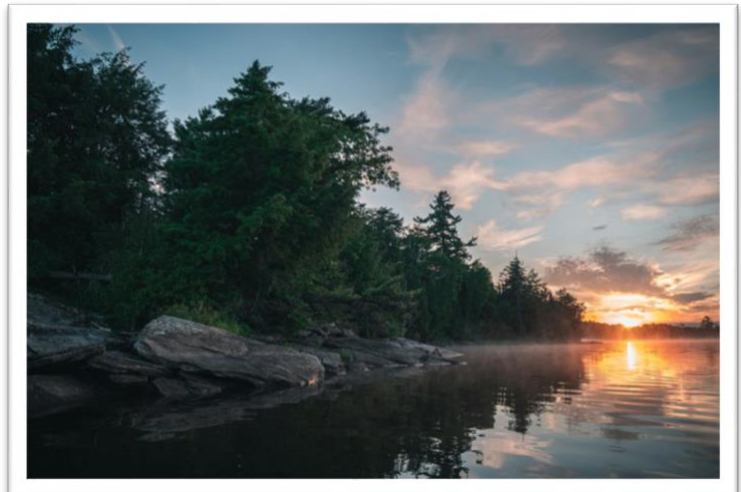
"It had been many years since some of us had last visited the Legionary community in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, and for many, this backyard BBQ became a meaningful opportunity to reconnect. Despite a busy season filled with graduations, weddings, sacraments, and family commitments, several Next Step Network alumni and their families traveled from across the state to spend the afternoon with the seven Legionary priests currently in residence. The community was incredibly welcoming and generously prepared a great spread for the gathering. The afternoon was filled with laughter, good food, sincere conversations, and a genuine interest in one another's stories — both from our years connected to the Legion and from the paths life has taken since. It was encouraging to see old friendships rekindled and new connections formed among alumni, families, and the priests. Everyone left grateful for the opportunity, and hopeful that future gatherings like this can continue to strengthen the bonds of friendship and shared history that make the Next Step Network so valuable."

WHAT'S COMING NEXT

It's time to connect, celebrate brotherhood, and take in the natural beauty of God's creation!

Canadian Lake Experience

LC Alumni Summer Gathering, August 26-29, 2026
Snake Island (Toronto), Ontario, Canada

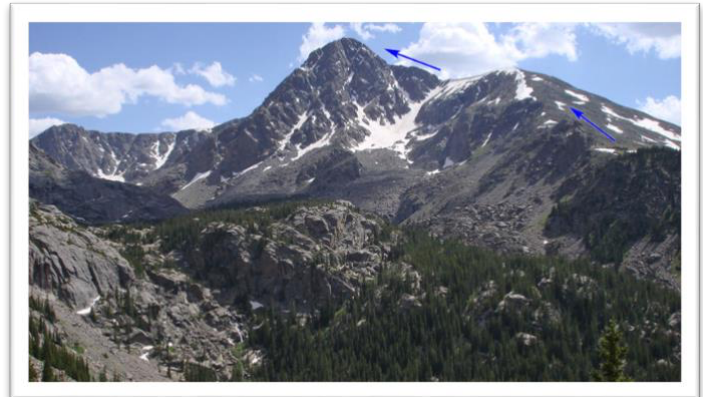


Join us for some days of water, jet skis, pontoon boats, and fun in the sun on a beautiful island just outside of Toronto, Ontario.

Matthias Kim and his family will be hosting us, so bring some flipflops and a bathing suit.

Click [here](#) to find out more and register for this event. We look forward to seeing you there!

4th of July Hike and Cook-out
LC Alumni Local Gathering, July 4, 2026
Littleton, CO



The Jalloway family invites you to a Frassati hike in the morning and cookout in the evening. Come for one or both, alone or with friends and family.

Find out more and register [here](#).

To express your interest in any of the upcoming events, please RSVP online or by emailing info@thenextstepnetwork.com

Plan Your Next Gathering
A Shared Resource for the Network

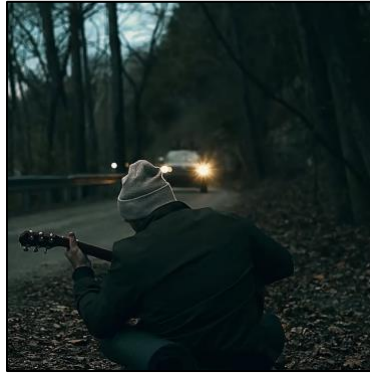
Whether you're organizing a regional dinner, a cohort reunion, or a multi-day retreat, the Next Step Network now has a shared Trip & Gathering Planning Guide available to all members as a Google Doc. Built around our five core values — Gratitude, Connection, Healing, Growth, and Accompaniment — the guide walks organizers through everything from an 18-week planning timeline and role assignments to activity formats, finance tracking, and post-event feedback.

It's designed to flex across any gathering type: formation-era cohorts reconnecting around a shared chapter of history, mixed-generational events that pair newer departees with longer-tenured alumni, or local and regional meetups that bring the network to your own backyard. If you've been thinking about hosting something — a dinner, a weekend away, a campfire night — this is your starting point. Reach out to us at

info@thenextstepnetwork.com to get access to the shared document and get your next gathering off the ground. We can help you with the event promotion!

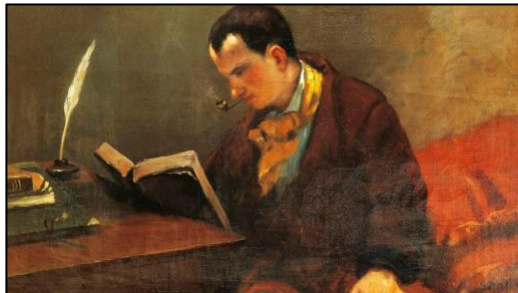
PUBLICATIONS & ACTIVITIES FROM OUR ALUMNI

JACK DARDIS OF BATON ROUGE RELEASES NEW MUSIC



Click [here](#) to learn – and hear – more about Jack’s newest release

DAVID VARELLA WRITES AS ‘DAVID FROM THE BELLTOWER POET’ SHARING RELIGIOUS AND CONTEMPORARY POETRY ON SUBSTACK



Written on the feast day of St. Benedict, 11 July 2017, in San Antonio, Texas, Varella shares a poem on writing poetry. You can subscribe [here](#).

If you have any news of a publication, project; a life update, need or achievement; a prayer request, please forward a title, description, link, and photo or graphic design piece as is appropriate to: info@thenextstepnetwork.com.

TRANSITION TIP

YOUR FORMATION HAS MORE VALUE THAN YOU THINK

Alt Title: "From the Chapel to the Boardroom: Translating What You Know"

One of the most disorienting moments in transition is sitting down to write a résumé and wondering: What exactly do I put here? Years spent in religious life or seminary can feel impossible to translate — but the skills you developed are genuinely in demand in today's workplace.

Consider what you actually did. You practiced public speaking and communication (homiletics). You managed schedules, people, and

projects. You led retreats and events. You operated cross-culturally, often in multiple languages. You exercised emotional intelligence, mentored peers, and brought discipline and focus to everything you undertook.

The key is learning to speak the language of the professional world. "Following a daily schedule" becomes punctuality and time management. "Leading prayer and formation" becomes facilitation and coaching. "Organizing retreats" becomes event management. These aren't exaggerations — they are accurate translations of real experience.

A great starting point is the book *What Color Is Your Parachute?* by Dick Bolles (himself a former minister), which walks you through identifying your transferable skills and pointing them toward meaningful work. The Next Step Network community is also full of people who have made this translation successfully and are glad to help you do the same.

Your formation is an asset. Own it.

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

A prayer for all seeking their next career path:

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for the experiences and skills I gained in my past profession. As I step into this season of career transition, I ask for Your wisdom and discernment. Clear my path, calm my anxieties, and lead me to a role that aligns with my passions and values and, more importantly, gives You glory.

Open the right doors of opportunity and give me the confidence to share my unique story with potential employers. Help me to learn quickly, adapt to my new surroundings, and trust in Your timing while I wait. May my new career bring purpose to my life and allow me to serve others with integrity.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

OPEN POSITIONS

Hallow has an opening for a Diocesan Lead. In this role, you will be the primary relationship builder and point of contact for Hallow's diocesan partners. You will build relationships with Hallow's key points of contact at our diocesan partners. You will implement, activate, and sustain partnerships, helping dioceses build

CONTACT INFORMATION

- Web:
[thenextstepnetwork.com](https://www.thenextstepnetwork.com)
 - Email:
info@thenextstepnetwork.com
 - Event Sign-Up:
<https://www.thenextstepnetwork.com/events>
 - Meeting with Kristian:
[Sign up here](#)
 - [BECOME A MEMBER APPLICATION](#)
-

communities of daily prayer across their parishes, while driving renewals and expansion.

Want to learn more? Do so [here](#).

If you are aware of a job or work opportunity, please forward a title, description, link, and graphic design piece as is appropriate to: info@thenextstepnetwork.com.

CALL TO ACTION

- **Share the Newsletter** - Forward this to someone who could be a future member or potential donor.
- **Let's Connect** – Whichever stage you are in, we are here to assist you on the journey. Connect with us [here](#).
- **Support Our Cause** - Membership dues help to cover operating costs, but additional donations are vital for covering growth costs and, eventually, supporting scholarships for specific events and needs
- **Get Involved** - We need volunteers for mentoring in specific life or career areas, fundraising and networking, organizing international groups, planning local or regional events, and supporting RC women's groups. If you're interested, let's schedule a time to discuss your involvement. Please email us at info@thenextstepnetwork.com.
- **Discover Everything the Network Has to Offer – Visit our website!** If you haven't explored the Next Step Network website lately, now is a great time. At [thenextstepnetwork.com](https://www.thenextstepnetwork.com), you'll find the full picture of who we are and what we're building together — from our mission of accompanying one another from formation to flourishing, to upcoming events, member stories, and active projects like *Helvetian: The Last Stand*. Whether you're newly discerned out, years into your next chapter, or ready to mentor someone just starting the journey, the site has resources, connection points, and ways to get involved at every stage. You can learn about our core values, explore what we do, register for upcoming gatherings, or simply read what fellow members have said about what this community has meant to them. Take a few minutes to browse — and if you haven't yet filled out a membership form or connected with us on LinkedIn, both are just a click away. Visit us at [thenextstepnetwork.com](https://www.thenextstepnetwork.com).