



January, 2022

Blessings in the New Year!

Two months ago, about 300 RFC members and friends gathered online for the 2021 Congress, entitled "Arise!" The theme was based on Malachi 4:2: "the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings." Envisioned more than two years ago, these words continue to be relevant in each of our lives and in the life of our world today. How we long for healing for ourselves, our communities and families, our global family, and our planet!

At Congress we announced several important *new* developments here at the Conference: a new strategic plan, the initiation of the Intercongregational Collaborative Novitiate (ICCN), the launch of an online database of formation resources, and a deeper dive into intercultural and intercongregational programs and resources through a new grant from GHR. There is a great deal of newness ahead in the three mission areas of RFC: initial formation, ongoing formation, and the preparation of formators in the New Year!

In support of these new initiatives as well as our many ongoing programs and services, we invite you to renew your membership. Please find enclosed your community's renewal notice and guidelines on how to renew. We encourage renewal by **Monday, February 1st** so as not to lose access to the Conference's excellent member benefits

Membership in the Conference is by religious congregation or government unit. Upon renewal, every member of your congregation/unit is a member of the RFC and enjoys the benefits of membership.

The two persons whom you designate on the renewal form will receive all Conference materials directly; we suggest one be a formator, the second in leadership or communications. Others in your congregation/unit can also receive these materials directly for an additional fee of \$70. Each member congregation/unit is assigned a unique username and password; we ask you to share these with your vowed members so that all can take direct advantage of resources and information on our website.

We have kept membership fees flat, despite greater demands for conference services and rising costs. If dues pose a significant difficulty, please contact me; we do not want to lose any member because of financial difficulties. Please don't hesitate to be in touch should have questions about the renewal process. We can be reached by using the contact information above.

We wish you the healing prayer of Malachi at the start of this new year. May the sun of justice *arise* with healing in its wings for you. We look forward to serving you in 2022.

Sincerely,

Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC
Executive Director

Membership Matters!
Thank you for being on this journey with us.