



December 1, 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Religious Formation Conference,

Six weeks ago, 300 RFC members and friends gathered in Louisville for the 2019 Congress: *Being Signs of Courageous Hope*. Our keynoters, Fr. Bryan Massingale and Sr. Norma Pimentel, both modeled and encouraged courage and hope for participants and, indeed, for all women and men religious.

Our congregations were founded by Spirit-filled founders and foundresses who saw the needs of the world and the Church and responded with courageous hope. Our Archives and community histories are filled with accounts of members who have embodied our charisms in myriad ministries, countries, and cultures. In our time and place we, too, are called to do no less and are gifted by the same Spirit with courage and hope. As formators we prepare the next generation of religious and also encourage lifelong learning and conversion for all our members.

The mission of the RFC is focused on the initial formation of new religious and the ongoing formation of all religious as well as the preparation of formators. We serve all of religious life in this important mission.

In this light we invite you to renew your membership in the RFC. Your participation in the mission of the Conference not only serves your current members, but also prepares the generation of religious who will follow.

On Tuesday religious communities' primary representative will receive a membership renewal notice by email with a link and instructions on how to renew online. If your community does not receive this and/or needs assistance with the renewal process, please let us know and we'd be happy to assist (contact information above).

Membership in the Conference is by religious congregation or government unit. Thus, upon your 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 RFC 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 materials and information on the RFC website.

If you need assistance locating your username or password, please contact Kathy Kandefer, BVM by email at kkandefer@relforcon.org or by phone at 773.675.8362. Please renew by January 31, 2020.

We have made every attempt to keep membership fees as reasonable as possible while honoring 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.

We wish you blessings in abundance this Advent and look forward to serving you in 2020. May the birth of our Savior renew in us courageous hope!

Sincerely,

Sister Ellen Dauwer, SC



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Executive Director