



RELIGIOUS FORMATION CONFERENCE 2017 CONGRESS

**Post-Congress Workshop
November 19, 2017**

*Re-imagining Formation for Religious Life for the Future:
A Sociological and Theological Analysis of Religious Life
in the United States Today*

During the course of this Post-Congress Workshop, presenters will offer participants the sociological and theological “big picture” of religious life that they (and many others) have been discerning with the help of many Congregations and leadership groups as well as the best tools of sociological and theological analysis, suggesting some ways we could undertake the re-imagining and re-organizing of formation programs, and provoking conversation on what could possibly be a new phase of initial and on-going formation for and in religious life in the United States. The Sister Formation Movement, born of a massive re-imagination, brought Religious Life through the upheaval of the ‘60’s and prepared it to be the primary “receivers” of the Council. Is a similarly radical and widespread reorganization of formation for Religious Life needed now as we face and begin to deal with the vastly changed globalized culture of the 21st century and the culture of the Church in the second half century of its reception of Vatican II?

Presenters Mary Johnson, SNDdeN, and Sandra Schneiders, IHM, are well known to religious. Both are respected scholars who have lectured and published widely within the United States and abroad.



Professor of Sociology and Religious Studies as well as Co- Director of the Billiard Center for Social Justice at Trinity Washington University, **Sister Mary** most recently published a study, undertaken with colleagues from the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, of sisters born outside the United States now living or working here.

Author of the masterful trilogy *Religious Life in a New Millennium*, **Sister Sandra** has contributed to a range of RFC programs over the years. In 2005, she was awarded the Conference’s Mary Emil Penet Award for her outstanding contribution to the initial and lifelong formation of vowed religious. Currently she is professor emerita at The Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University.

