



RELIGIOUS FORMATION CONFERENCE **2017 CONGRESS**

**Biennial National Congress
November 16-18, 2017**

*Congress Seminar
November 17, 2017*

*Encountering Each Other and Those We Serve:
An Approach from Cultural Diversity*

In this seminar participants will experience an approach to encountering others in religious life and ministry that enhances and builds on cultural diversity. Through reflection on examples of particular experiences, they will learn about and practice the dynamics of cultural encounters with diverse populations. Imagine, for example, encountering a Colombian priest, the pastor of a culturally diverse parish, who celebrates Masses in three languages, or a Nigerian sister ministering in a primarily African-American urban parish, or a Filipino pastor who speaks several languages and pastors a primarily Spanish speaking one. And you happen to be the American-born provincial or formator who speaks only English! How do you empathize, connect on a personal level, communicate, understand and be understood? And how can you have a meaningful experience of community?



Presenter: Juan Molina, O.Ss.T., a member of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity, is currently director of the Collection for the Church in Latin America at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Prior to ordination, Father Molina earned his M.A. and M. Div. at the Washington Theological Union; his Ph.D. in economics is from Fordham University. He is fluent in Spanish and Portuguese.

This seminar will be offered twice, once in English and once in Spanish.