



Dear Partner in Mission,

In an address to seminary formators gathered at the Vatican in July, Pope Leo XVI said that formation is not “limited to specialized knowledge” but involves “a continuous journey of conversion.” He went on to offer three suggestions to those engaged in Christian formation:

- Cultivate formation programs that focus on “friendship with Jesus;”
- Foster “effective and affective fraternity” (community); and
- “Share the mission with all the baptized.”

Here at the Conference, we take seriously Pope Leo’s charge to invest time and resources into quality formation by sponsoring programs and resources that attend to these critical dimensions of formation ministry. Ongoing transformation that grounds us in Christ, builds up healthy communities of witness, and shares the Good News is what we’ve always been about. *This is formation for mission!*



Our records indicate that the congregation’s membership is due for renewal in 2026. As we enter the new year, we invite the community to renew and continue this shared journey in support of religious life and formation.

Your renewal and financial support enable the type of formation Pope Leo describes: *Christ-centered, community-focused, and mission-driven.*

Recently, the congregation’s formation liaison received an email with instructions to renew online. Alternatively, communities can renew using the *2026 Membership Form* available here: relforcon.org/membership.

As a reminder, membership offers significant benefits, including:

- Exclusive access to **members-only resources** and formation materials;
- **Discounts on programming:** core programs, workshops, and other initiatives; and
- Collaboration with a **network of colleagues** committed to supporting each other and lifelong learning.

Your membership is crucial to sustaining the Conference’s mission of serving the formation needs of women and men in consecrated life—today and for tomorrow. Even if the community doesn’t have anyone in initial formation at this time, we encourage renewal and invite investment in the *future* of religious life (and we’re all in *ongoing* formation—personal and professional development through webinars, workshops, trainings, and more).

If you have questions or need assistance renewing, please contact Susan Oxley, Communications and Membership Manager, by email at soxley@relforcon.org or call 773.675.8658.

Thank you for continuing this journey with us! Together, we look forward to serving you in 2026 and living out our shared call to “continuous conversion” for the sake of the church and world.

With Christmas joy,

Ryan J. Hoffmann, DMin
Executive Director
Religious Formation Conference

Barbara Staley, MSC
Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart
Chair, Board Membership Committee

*Two things I value about RFC: One is a professional network to find answers to problems.
The other is continuing education workshops that broaden my sense of initial formation
and the gifts I have to bring to my students.
-Friar Paul Schloemer, OFM Conv.*