

2024 Membership Letter

Dear Friend,

At Congress back in November, we marveled at the block letters "THRIVE." Over 250 participants gathered for the biennial national gathering, and many brought images depicting what it meant to thrive in religious life and affixed them to the letters at the front of the stage. It was hopeful and inspiring! It was a 'concert of charisms' symbolizing the best of who we are – and how we're called to be in our church and world.



Here at the Conference, we're exploring what factors empower religious life to thrive. La Salette Missionary Fr. Ted Brown, for example, penned a wonderful article in the fall edition of *InFormation* on "Trust, Purpose and Health as Pillars of Thriving Communities." At Congress, we engaged in further discussion and dialogue.

In 2024, as we mark 70 years in service to religious life, we plan to deepen our conversation around what factors would contribute to the full flourishing of religious life in the days to come.

Membership in the Conference enables this work to continue and is a crucial way for our concert of charisms to explore the future with curiosity and creativity. And we do this together: inter-congregationally, interculturally, and intergenerationally. Women and men, lay and ordained, apostolic and contemplative. As Pope Francis often quips: *Todos! Todos! Todos!* Everyone. Everyone. Everyone. May it be so with us, too!

From popular webinars, to the transformative nature of our programs, to the constantly updated resources portal, the RFC continues to innovate around best practices for ecclesial and spiritual accompaniment.

The best way to take full advantage of these opportunities is to be a member of the Conference. We invite congregations to renew their 2024 membership or become a member today.

To renew a membership or become a member, please visit our membership page online at: www.relforcon.org/membership

Membership supports a strong Conference not only for current members, but also for the generations of religious who will follow. Members also enjoy the many benefits of membership, like access to members-only resources and significant discounts on program offerings and initiatives.

Should you have questions or need assistance with membership, please don't hesitate to reach out to Chari Fridge, Administrative Assistant, by email at cfridge@relforcon.org or call the office at 773.675.8362.

The Conference looks forward to continuing to be at the service of initial and lifelong formation for women and men religious. We appreciate your support and value our partnership.

Sincerely,

Ryan J. Hoffmann, DMin
Executive Director
Religious Formation Conference

Gregory Timothy Smyth, CFC
Edmund Rice Christian Brothers
Chair, Board Membership Committee