

Vatican City, August 2th, 2017

Prot. n. Sp.R. 1796/17

Dear Supreme Moderator,

In anticipation of and in preparation for the Synod of Bishops to be held in 2018 on the topic "*Young people, faith and vocation discernment*", this Dicastery has organized a Conference for Major Superiors and Vocation Animation Personnel, to be held in Rome from November 30th to December 3rd 2017, at the Pontifical Athenaeum *Regina Apostolorum* (Via degli Aldobrandeschi, 190).

Consecrated life, particularly in some countries, has been suffering a serious vocational crisis for years. Due to the lack of generational replacement, many Institutes are experiencing problems in both their life and mission (aging of members, closure of works, sale of real estate ...).

Our intent, in summoning all those who are engaged in this extraordinary challenge, is not to lament, but rather to concretely consider the reality and search for new endeavours, starting from those positive experiences that already exist (*best practices* and initiatives in collaboration with the Local Church and/or Inter-Congregational Initiatives). Since it is our desire to affront this challenge together, we are inviting members of all forms of Consecrated Life throughout the world, to contribute to the success of this undertaking!

All participants are being asked for a contribution of 180 Euros which includes lunches on 1-3 December. Since the number of participants is necessarily limited, for organizational purposes, we ask that you kindly register by the 31st of October by filling out the form which can be found at www.congregazionevitaconsacrata.va. A detailed schedule for the Conference, as well as other useful information, can be found on the same website.

Thanking you in advance, I take this opportunity to greet you and to offer a blessing to all the members of your Institutes.

Sincerely in Christ,

✠ José Rodríguez Carballo, O.F.M.
Archbishop Secretary