



Member Message December 15, 2020

Dear Mothers and Sisters,

Peace in Christ.

At the Fall meeting of the CMSWR Board of Directors, the members of the Board, having recently approved the new [CMSWR Affiliate Status](#) and the Mentor Program, and having reviewed the criteria for associate membership, made the decision to reserve associate membership in the CMSWR to those superiors whose communities have been granted canonical status as a public association of the Christian faithful.

Superiors of newly-forming communities which have not yet acquired the status of a public association may be affiliated with and supported by the CMSWR through its Mentor Program, provided that the community has acquired juridic personality as a private association of the Christian faithful.

A superior of a newly-forming community who subscribes to the criteria for membership in the CMSWR, during the time that the community is in the process of becoming established as a public association of the Christian faithful and eventually erected as a religious institute or society of apostolic life, may become an Affiliate or an [Associate Member](#) (depending on canonical status of the community) and participate in the Council's Mentor Program.

We are excited to introduce the new [Mentor Program](#), which was established with a view to assisting superiors of newly-forming communities through each phase of the process of becoming full members of the CMSWR. A mentor offers guidance regarding the process of becoming a religious institute or society of apostolic life, including an understanding of the role of the diocesan bishop, to whom it is proper to discern the authenticity of the charisms of new associations.

Our current Associate Members will be contacted regarding the modification of criteria and participation in the Mentor Program. The Membership Committee will work with these members to identify their appropriate status in the CMSWR and to connect them with a mentor from among the full members of the CMSWR.

The Membership Committee will also contact our Full Members to request mentors for our Associate Members and our Affiliates. Full Members may [contact the CMSWR Office](#) to volunteer as mentors. Guidance and resources for mentors will be provided. No previous experience as mentors is required.

We continue to keep all of you in prayer.

In Christ,

Sister Mary Christine Cremin, RSM
Executive Director



Vision Statement

The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious will be a collaborative body of life-giving women religious committed to "the full flowering" of religious life in the United States by placing our collective feminine genius at the service of the Church and one another. CMSWR will be a wellspring of hope and a trusted resource for the ongoing revitalization of religious life and the New Evangelization.

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