



Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious Press Release CMSWR Releases Statement to Final Report of the Apostolic Visitation

December 16, 2014

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) released a statement today from Vatican City regarding the final report of the Apostolic Visitation.

“We consider it a providential blessing that the final report of the Apostolic Visitation comes at this moment of grace, the beginning of the *Year of Consecrated Life* called by Pope Francis,” stated Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV. As the current CMSWR Chairperson, she reiterated that “this year shines a spotlight on religious life not just in our country but across the globe, not just for religious but for the whole Church.”

From today’s press conference noting the report’s release, Mother Agnes highlighted many of the significant and positive trends underneath the broad brush strokes often reported by the mainstream media. She responded, “Apostolic Religious Life is not dying in the United States. There is reason for hope. The same voice of love which called women to courageously and selflessly tend the poor, weak, and young in the past is still calling young women today. It is the voice of Jesus, and the experience of His personal love continues to lead young women to our doors.”

As announced in October 2014 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the CMSWR is partnering to promote a nation-wide, collaborative effort across the religious leadership conferences in the United States. Highlighted by “Open House Days” at convents and friaries throughout 2015, the first of these events will take place on Sunday, February 8, 2015.

Located in Washington, D.C., the CMSWR was founded in 1992 with the canonical approval of St. John Paul II. The sisters of the CMSWR communities represent 125 communities nationwide with approximately 6,000 sisters. For more information and to read the full text of the statement today in Vatican City by Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, SV, visit www.cmswr.org

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