



CONGREGATIO
PRO INSTITUTIS VITAE CONSECRATAE
ET SOCIETATIBUS VITAE APOSTOLICAE

Vatican City, May 12, 2021

Prot. n. T. 150-1/2018

Dear Sr. Anne,

This letter is to acknowledge receipt and to thank you for the 9th Annual Report from *Canadian Religious Stewardship* (CRS) and the Independent Auditor's Report, which have been received in this *Congregation for Institutes for Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life* on December 9, 2020, in compliance with your Statutes.

With you we remember Fr. Francis Morrissey, OMI, who died on May 23, 2020, in Ottawa, and to whom the last report is dedicated. He was a great authority on canon law and frequently served as a canon law consultant to Catholic health care systems and facilities as well as to general superiors of congregations and diocesan leaders. Fr. Morrissey was greatly respected by the U.S. Catholic health ministry as a pathfinder whose work was foundational to changes in business structures and in sponsorship models that allowed for a more active role for the laity. He was cherished by those who knew him for his joy-filled approach to work, as well as his humanity, wit, optimism and genuine appreciation for others. We believe that God is his eternal reward.

We take note of the statistics of the religious in Canada, the presentation of the Members and Board of Directors, the different activities of CRS, particularly the diverse assistance that you extend to religious institutes and their members who find themselves in challenging situations due to their declining number, aging membership and financial difficulties.

At an audience for participants in a conference on the pastoral care of the elderly, Pope Francis said old-age is "a precious treasure that takes shape in the journey of every man and woman's life, whatever their origins, background, or economic or social conditions. ... Life is a gift, and when it is long it is a privilege, for oneself and others. Always." He called on the Church to care for the elderly, going to them with "a smile on your face and the Gospel in your hands" (Pope Francis, *Elderly have a role in God's saving plan*, January 31, 2020).

Today, the world is facing a significant demographic change, with fewer young people, fewer vocations and a large increase in the number of elderly. The needs of the elderly call for increased support from the Church and society. The *Canadian Religious Stewardship* is a very important response for the many consecrated communities experiencing this reality. We wish you much courage and perseverance in this not easy ministry that you are undertaking.

I take this opportunity to assure you of my fervent prayers and cordial best wishes of peace and good.

Sincerely in Christ,


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


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