

CONVERSATIONS at UISG Centre for Religious Life

WE HAVE BEGUN A SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS AT UISG INVITING SUPERIORS GENERAL, MEMBERS OF GENERAL COUNCILS AND SUPPORT STAFF TO MEET AND SHARE ON A VARIETY OF TOPICS.

Each conversation will be facilitated by someone who has experience in the area who will give a short introduction before the table conversations begin.

The introduction will be translated into Italian. Table conversations will take place in language groups.

Tuesday, October 24th - 9.30-12.00

The Intercultural challenge within Religious life

What are the blessings and the difficulties you experience regarding interculturality in your communities, teams, and congregation?

What has helped you in the intercultural living?

How could UISG support intercultural life and mission as religious communities?

FACILITATOR:

SR. MARIA THERESIA HÖRNEMANN

*CONGREGATIONAL LEADER OF THE MISSIONARY SISTERS
SERVANTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND UISG BOARD MEMBER*

Register online for this conversation: click [here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

click [here](#)

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SUPERIORS GENERAL - UISG

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#for mission

The Intercultural challenge within Religious life

Formation is fundamental to the future of consecrated life.

(New Wine in New Wineskins-The consecrated life and its on-going challenges since Vatican II - Guidelines #34)

... Most of us here, if not all, belong to congregations with members from different nationalities and cultures... *New Wine in New Wineskins* invites us to look back and to look forward to the future of consecrated life. As a mission Congregation, *we have been encouraged from the very beginning to live in and serve as international communities.*

Beingsenttoanothercountrymeansthatwebelongtothismissioncountry... After Vatican II new foundations started usually with members from different nationalities.

The word internationality has almost been replaced by interculturality because we know that even members of the same nationality have very different cultures (example Indonesia and India).

One of the directions of our last General Chapter in 2014 titled: "Communion within the Congregation" states that: *"Humankind is expanding its consciousness to global horizon. At the same time, people struggle to maintain their cultural identity and national sovereignty. Our interculturality as SSpS is an expression of the Spirit's many faces. We experience both the richness and the struggles of intercultural community living. We become aware of and honestly own the lights and shadows of our intercultural living. We open ourselves to continue transformation as we befriend diversity and the unknown."*

Some of the main insights/ learnings are:

- We all have our prejudice regarding culture
- Culture is not born, but learned
- We have to be aware of what culture is and what personality is
- Differences should be considered as enriching and not as threatening
- Living in and with other cultures need the awareness of one's own culture
- There is no perfect culture, we have to look at culture in the light of the Gospel culture.

Sr. Maria Theresia Hörnemann, Congregational Leader of the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit and UISG board member, sharing her experience in Intercultural and International Congregation.

There will be time to share some experiences and questions in groups and in the plenum in order to enrich each other and learn from one another.



#formation

