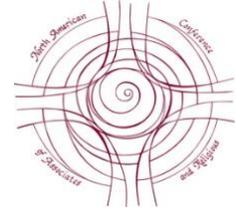


NACAR

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Dear NACAR Community Member,

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Directors to share with you the rationale behind our difficult decision to raise our Community dues in 2019.

NACAR has **not** raised Community dues for the last 15 years. NACAR, like many of you, has experienced increased costs, despite our best efforts to keep expenses as reasonable as possible. In the United States, for instance, inflation has increased 33.8% since 2004. In addition to inflationary costs, NACAR has incurred new expenses to meet increased digital and networking needs such as

- A professional Zoom account which allows us to offer *Creative Conversations*.
- Enhanced website tools and payment options that allow for increased security and accessibility.
- Increased networking and collaboration with other organizations (LCWR, Religious Formation Conference, Communicators for Women Religious, etc.) to build awareness of the Associate way of life and the contributions of Associates to the Church and the world.

In addition to new benefits, NACAR continues to provide a variety of benefits to serve you, including *The Associate* e-magazine, an Annual Leadership retreat that takes place in different locations across North America, and an annual chapter to the Leadership Manual, just to name a few.

Everything we do, we do with you (our members) in mind. To this end we have successfully sought and received grants that have helped us serve you better by financing the 2015 CARA study and the study guides; VLCFF (Virtual Learning in Catholic Faith Formation) discounted tuition; Fund Development Assessment; Communications Audit; updating of the Logo; and implementation of a new cloud-based membership database. We are actively seeking funding to continue the partnership with VLCFF and to allow us to translate the Leadership Manual into Spanish.

As we continue to search for funding partners to help reduce the burden on our Community members, we are deeply aware of the changing demographics that impact our Communities and us as a membership-based organization. We continue to explore different options and opportunities and will strive to make any further changes in a consultative manner.

As we go forward, I encourage you to take advantage of all the Listed Memberships that come with your Community dues. Spread the wealth of information and resources NACAR has to offer. This will be even easier to do with our new database system.

For those of you with Community membership, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to have additional Associates join NACAR at the significantly discounted individual rate of \$25.00. It is a great way to engage your local leadership. Together we can continue to share our charisms for the sake of our hurting world.

With deepest gratitude for your continued support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeanne Connolly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end of the name.

Jeanne Connolly,
President (on behalf of the Board of Directors)