

TOWARDS JUBILEE 2025

AN INVITATION TO REFLECT & RESPOND

As part of a consultation led by DICLSAL as we prepare for the Jubilee of Consecrated Life, 2025

CRA extends an open invitation to all Religious and Religious communities to address an open-ended question and to return their response by 8 September 2023.

A starting point: God's living word

Before addressing the central question, we urge you to spend some time with the Scriptures and also with the saints of our Christian tradition.

Sink yourself into a scriptural text which speaks deeply to your heart about the gift of God's tender love and mercy, or about the unity of God's people, and ponder its message.

Reflect on the life of someone who exemplifies a disciple's response to God's love and mercy; a forgiving and reconciling person whom you admire and who inspires you in your own commitment as a Christian, as a Religious.

Ideally, share something of your reflections as a community, or at least with one other.

Then, when you feel ready, turn to the central question:

Respond to the question:

From your experience (personal, communal or congregational),
tell us where you 'see' ('hear', 'feel', 'sense') the thirst for reconciliation in Australia.

- i. Where is this thirst felt most strongly?
- ii. Where is the hope; what seeds of reconciliation are already being sown?

This twofold question (based on the DICLSAL question) is deliberately broad and open-ended. You decide how to interpret and answer it. For example:

How do you interpret the term "reconciliation" and its concrete manifestation? Is it related to First Nations peoples? Creation? Marginalised peoples? The relations between women and men? Between wives and husbands? Between religious and church authority figures? Between Churches? Between faith traditions? Between Australians with diverse backgrounds and life stories?

Is the thirst for reconciliation something that cries out in the lives of young spouses learning how to forgive each other amidst life's many pressures? In the lives of children negotiating their parents' divorce? In the quiet, unseen acts of fidelity in countless homes and households? In the willingness to gather around a meal table; to pray; to say simple words, like 'sorry'? In the 'rough and tumble' of a playground where children learn to negotiate the art of belonging and friendship?

Where is reconciliation in relation to the laws of the land and to those in prison?

Where is sacramental reconciliation amidst the complexities of living as a faith community? How do we respond to and ritualise God's mercy? Can we forgive the 'unforgiveable'? In others; in myself? What helps or detracts from our capacity to grow in a spirit of reconciliation?

The questions and nuanced insights are limitless. What is important is that you draw from *your* story – how you see, hear, feel and sense reconciliation in your life and in the world around you.

Mode of Response

What form should a response take?

Again, we leave that to you, given your level of engagement, time available, gifts. For example:

- A response as an individual, or as a collective
- A written response – a few carefully chosen lines, a page, or pages
- An audio or video recording – as brief or as long as you choose
- A scholarly response; an artistic expression; or a pastoral view.

The CRA secretariat will endeavour to collate whatever is offered into a creative, useful form – not only for DICLSAL, but to be shared with our Members and with the wider community.

Submit your Response

Forward your response to Anne Walker, CRA National Executive Director:

nationalexec@catholicreligious.org.au

By 12 September 2023

Thank you!