



VIRTUALLY TOGETHER: THE 29TH CECILIA MEIGHAN, RSM Institute of Law and Religious Life

THEME OF YEAR 2

(PART OF THE THREE-YEAR CYCLE):

**The Individual Religious: Profession of the
Evangelical Counsels (Vows) and the Obligations**

Interactive Virtual Sessions:

August 28 - December 4, 2025

The Institute offers professional development to elected and appointed leadership of Roman Catholic religious congregations. The program is also invaluable to those members to whom leadership has delegated responsibilities for the life and ministry of the members. Over the course of the interactive virtual Institute, attendees can seek input from faculty and also from the experience of their peers.

This program will enable you to:

- Gain a new perspective on the role and responsibilities of leadership
- Interact with those who share similar responsibilities and challenges
- Discover alternative solutions to problems
- Create a network of peers

FOUNDRESS OF THE CECILIA MEIGHAN, RSM INSTITUTE OF LAW AND RELIGIOUS LIFE:

Cecilia Meighan, RSM, EdD, JD

Our founder and first Director (until 2008) died on September 12, 2014 after many years of service as a teacher, administrator, and lawyer as a member of the Mid-Atlantic Community of the Sister of Mercy of the Americas. For the first 21 Institutes of Law and Religious Life, she served as inspiration, mentor, and friend to many faculty members and participants. We count on her continued presence, guidance, and inspiration as we continue this Institute named in her honor.

MEET OUR FACULTY:

**DEBORAH M. CERULLO, SSND, JD, JCL,
DIRECTOR OF INSTITUTE**



Deborah M. Cerullo SSND is an attorney and canonist whose primary focus is the legal issues of religious institutes. From 2003 to 2016, she served as the principle attorney at the Law Office of Deborah M. Cerullo SSND in Providence, RI and has served on the faculty of the Institute

of Law and Religious Life on an ongoing basis since 2003. Prior to 2003 she served on the law faculties of the University of Notre Dame and Boston College and as a legal services attorney in both secular and faith-based organizations. In 2016 Deborah was elected to the provincial council of the Atlantic- Midwest Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and completed her term in 2021. She has since returned to full time consulting work with religious institutes.

KELLY CONNORS, PM, JCD, Ph.D.



Sister Kelly Connors is a Sister of the Presentation of Mary and a member of the US Province. She completed her studies in Canon Law at St. Paul University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. With the specialization in Religious Law, Kelly has worked for dioceses, served part-

time at the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, and taught at universities. Currently, she provides workshops and conferences for religious and their collaborators, consults with individual religious and leadership teams, as well as collaborating with several Conferences for Major Superiors throughout the world. Kelly served one term on her General Leadership Team (2017-2023) and has recently returned to the United States to continue offering canonical consulting and support to Consecrated Life and those who have the ministry of leadership.

VIRTUAL PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

Dates: August 28, September 11 & 25, October 9 & 23, November 6 & 20, December 4

Day: Thursdays

Time: 1:00 - 4:00 PM (Eastern Time)

TOPIC:	DATE:	SESSION:
1. Intro and Canonical Refresher	August 28, 2025	Session one
2. Initial Formation and Admission – Civil Implications	August 28, 2025	Session two
3. Initial Formation and Admission – Canonical Implications	September 11, 2025	Session one
4. Rights and Obligations of Membership	September 11, 2025	Session two
5. Evangelical Counsel of Poverty – Canonical Implications	September 25, 2025	Session one
6. Evangelical Counsel of Poverty – Civil Implications	September 25, 2025	Session two
7. Evangelical Counsel of Chastity – Canonical Implications	October 9, 2025	Session one
8. Evangelical Counsel of Chastity – Civil Implications	October 9, 2025	Session two
9. Evangelical Counsel of Obedience – Canonical Implications	October 23, 2025	Session one
10. Evangelical Counsel of Obedience – Civil Implications	October 23, 2025	Session two
11. Confidentiality and Privacy – Civil and Canonical	November 6, 2025	Session one
12. Individual Eligibility for Government Benefits	November 6, 2025	Session two
13. Separation I – transfer, departure, exclaustation	November 20, 2025	Session one
14. Separation II – dismissal, imposed exclaustation	November 20, 2025	Session two
15. Rescript/Warning/Indult/Decree Writing (Letters and Formal Documents)	December 4, 2025	Session one
16. Conclusion and Commencement	December 4, 2025	Session two

Program Cost: \$325.00 (per individual for all virtual sessions)

If you have any questions please email muconf@misericordia.edu or give us a call at (570) 674-6161