

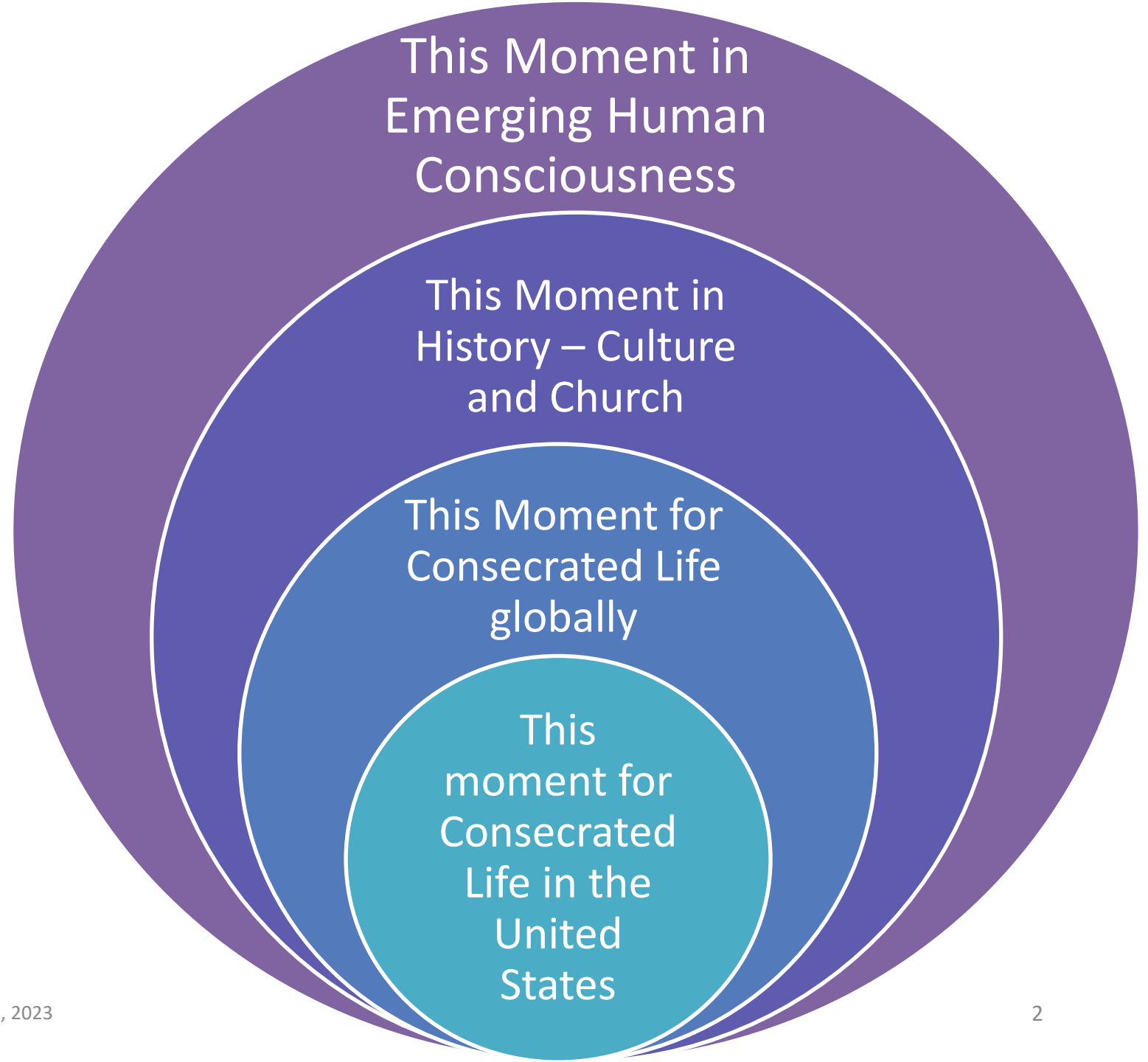


Along a Paschal Journey:  
Consecrated Life in a Change of Era

*Sr. Mary Pellegrino, CSJ*  
*National Conference of Vicars for Religious*  
*March 13, 2023*

**“Context  
is everything”**

*Beatrice Bruteau*





“We are not living in an era of change,  
but a change of era.”

*Pope Francis*



# The Evolution of Self-Understanding *Emerging Integral Consciousness*

- From observers to participants
- From *apart from* to *a part of*
- From separate to whole



# CHANGE OF ERA: PROFOUND AND RADICAL DISRUPTIONS



- ❖ Decline of Institutions  
(Civil, Democratic, Religious...)
- ❖ Global Health Crises
- ❖ Economic Collapse
- ❖ Climate Collapse
- ❖ Global Racial Justice Movement

# CHOOSE WHAT MATTERS, WHAT IS NECESSARY



HOW WILL WE  
RESPOND?



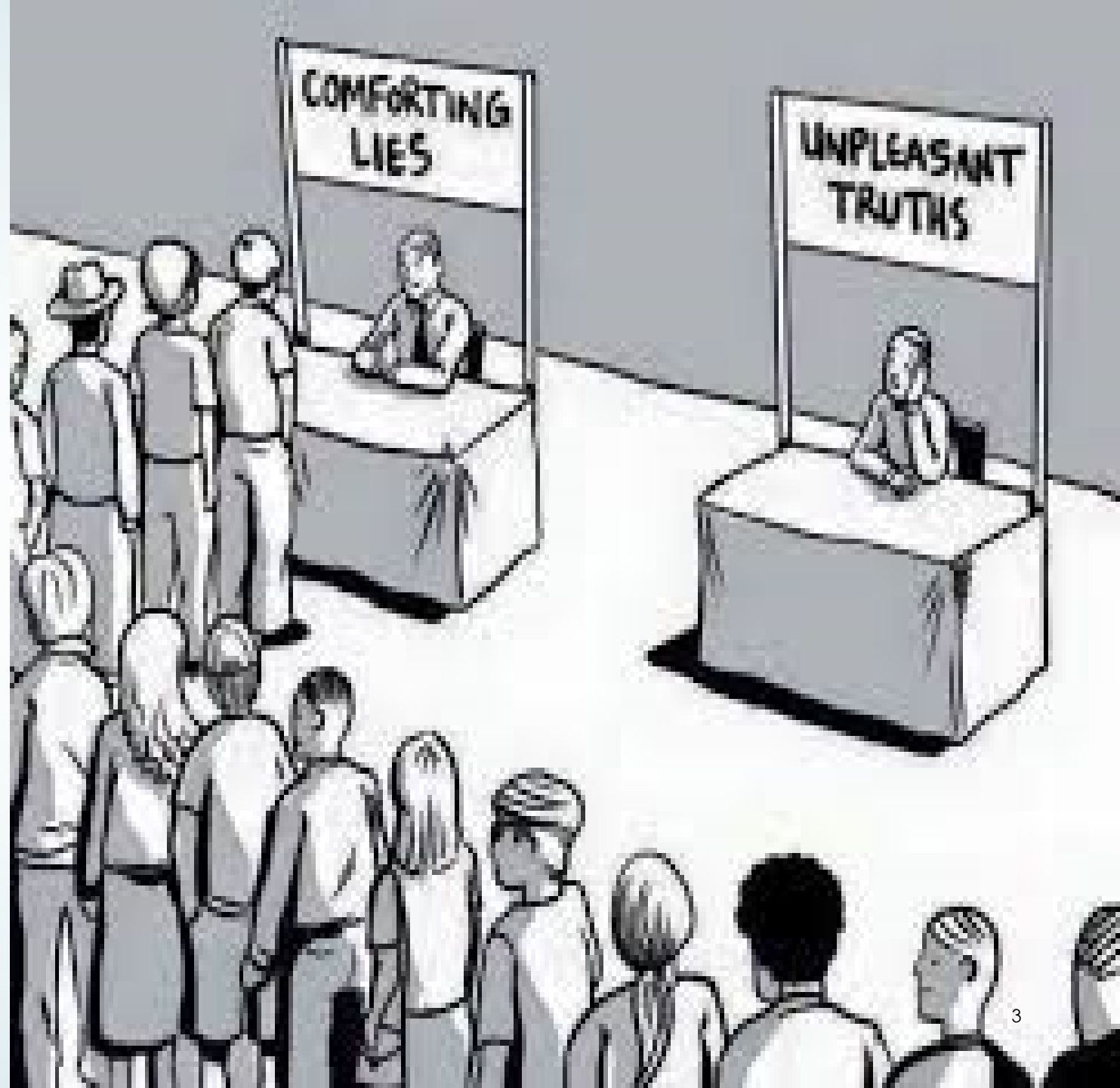
*Urgent Tasks  
for Prophetic  
Communities*

Reality  
Grief  
Hope



# Reality

Tell the truth  
8 in a society  
that lives in  
illusion





# Grief

9  
Grieve in a  
society that  
practices denial

National Conference of Vicars for Religious



I sat with my  
anger long enough,  
until she  
told me her  
real name  
was grief.

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# Hope

Express  
hope in a  
society that  
lives in  
despair

10

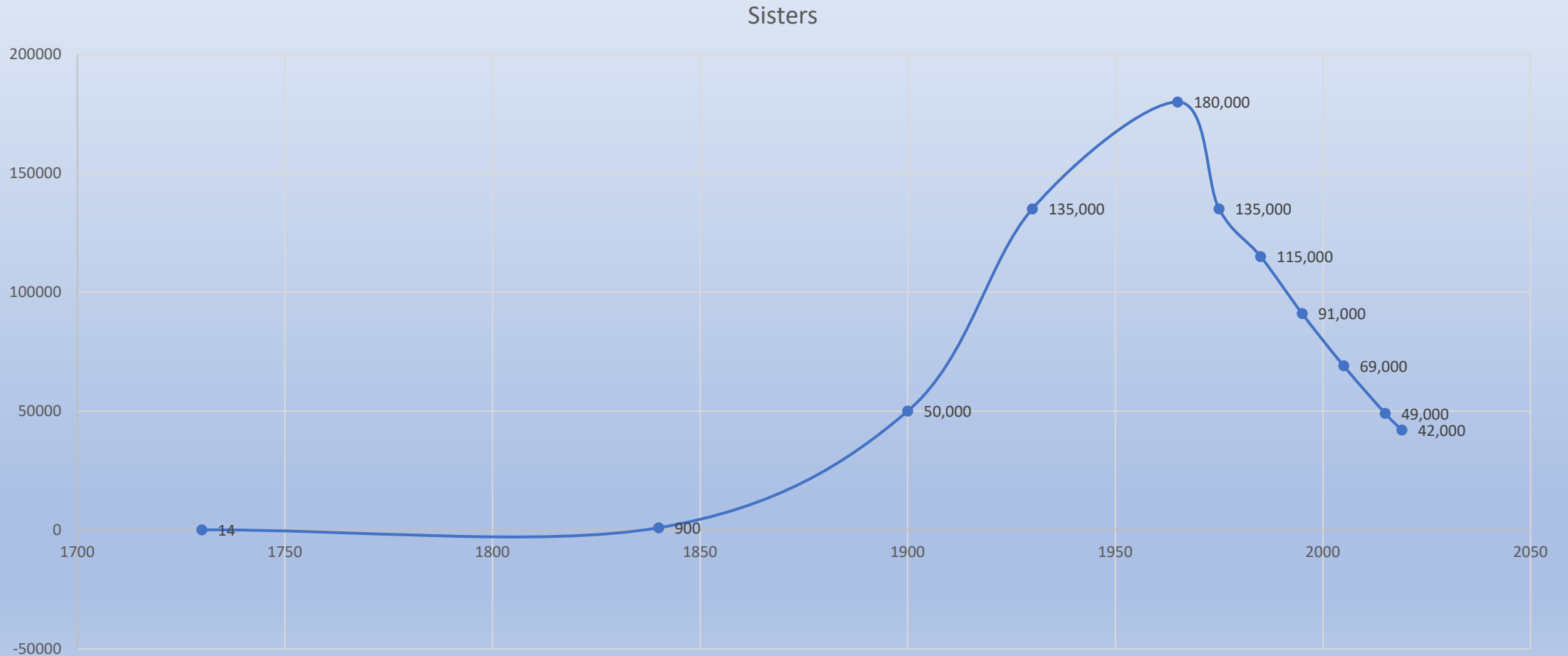
All shall be well, all shall be well...  
For there is a force of love moving  
through the universe that holds us  
fast and will never let us go.



Saint Julian of Norwich

# Presence of Catholic Sisters in the U.S.

## *1730 to Present*

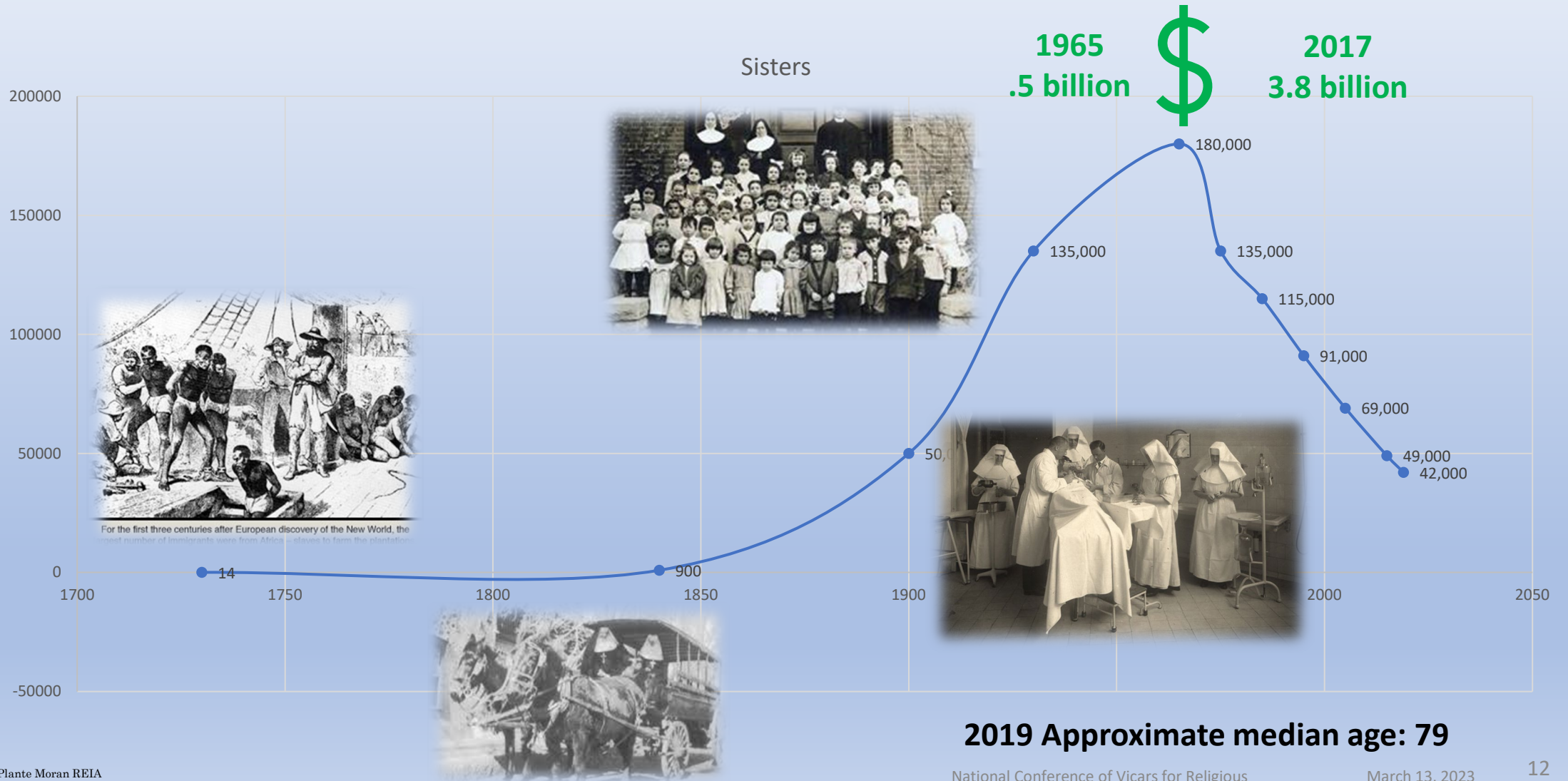


**2019 Approximate median age: 79**



# Presence of Catholic Sisters in the U.S.

## *Catalyzing Change, Humanizing Culture*



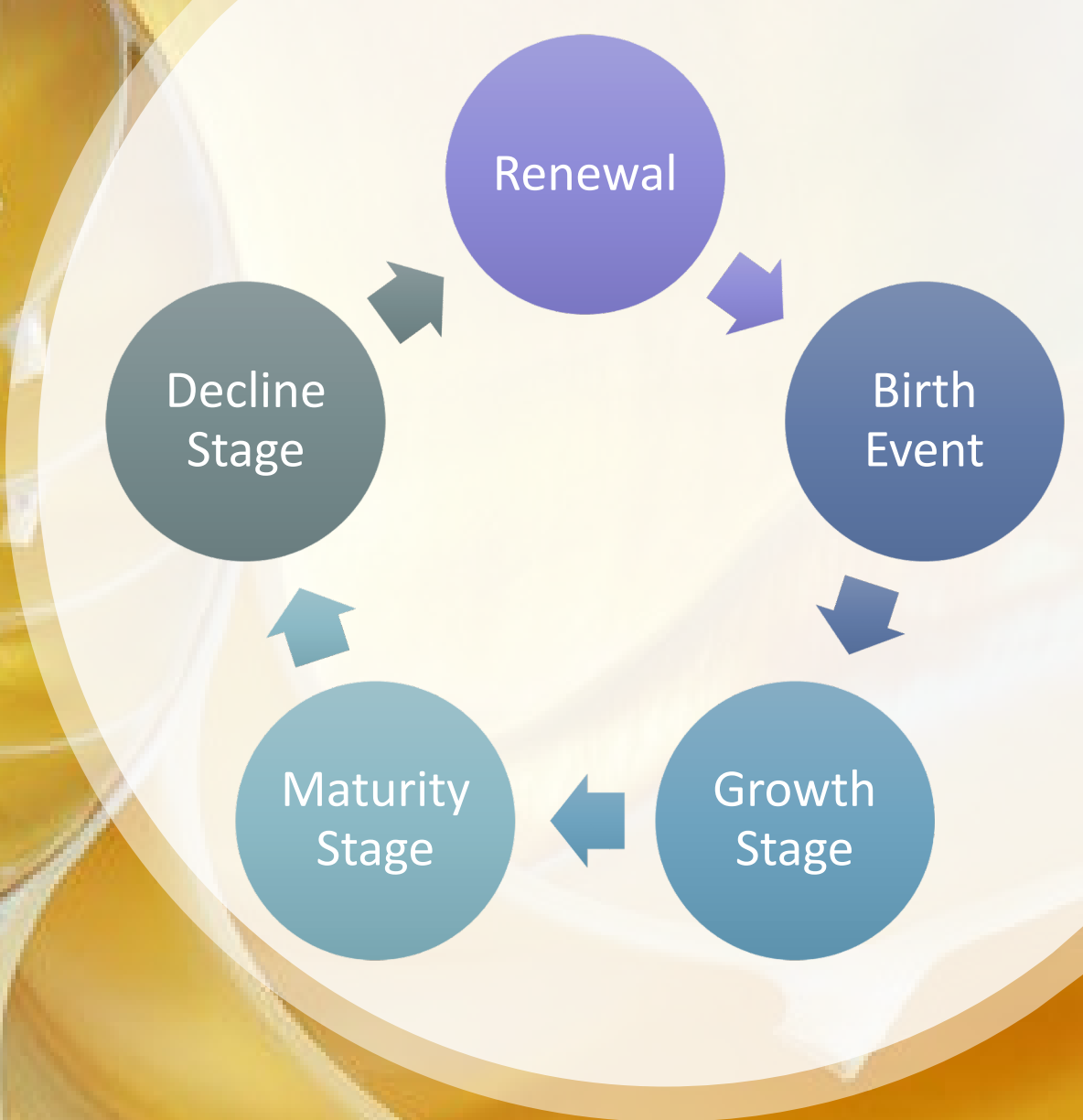
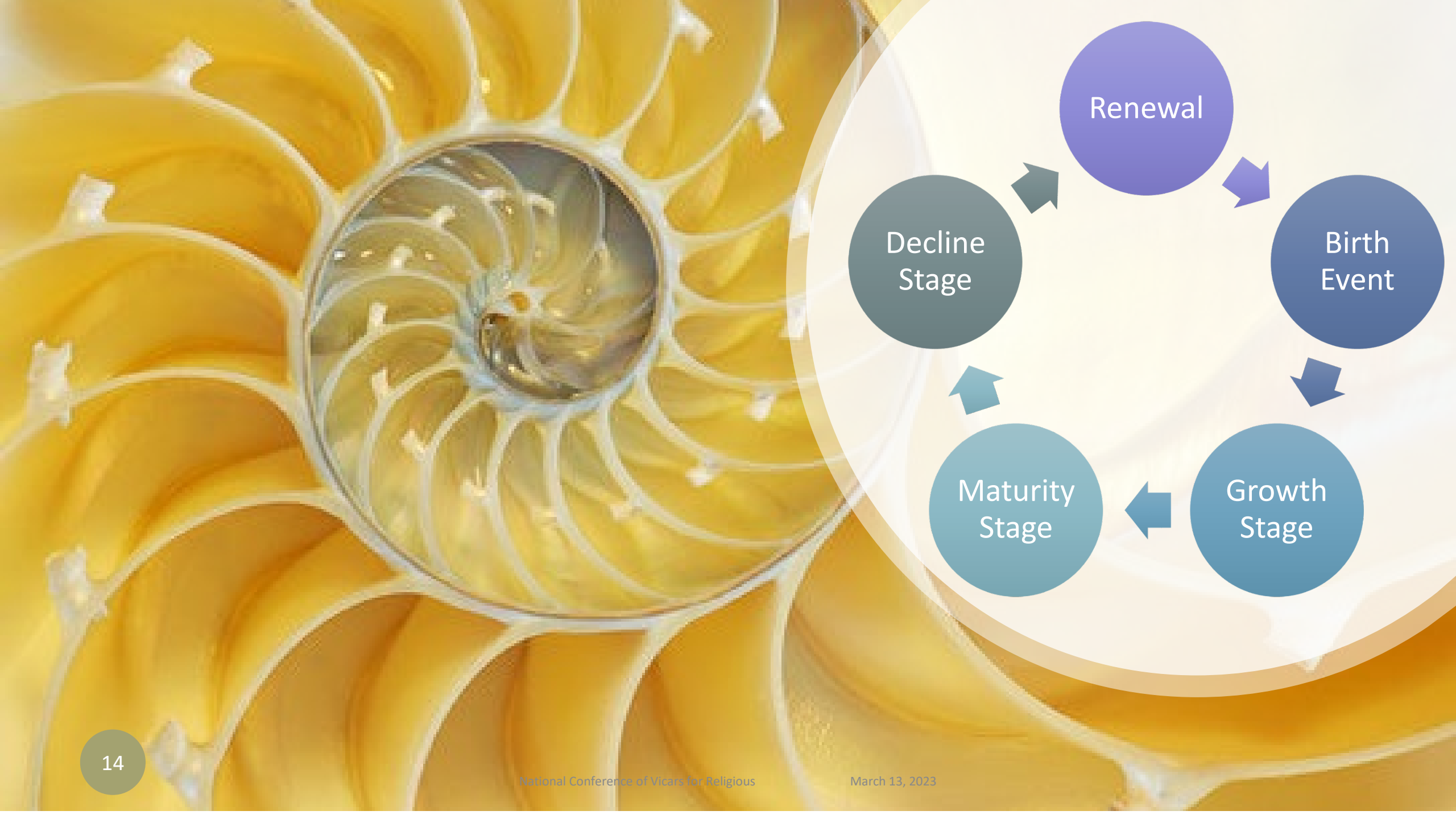


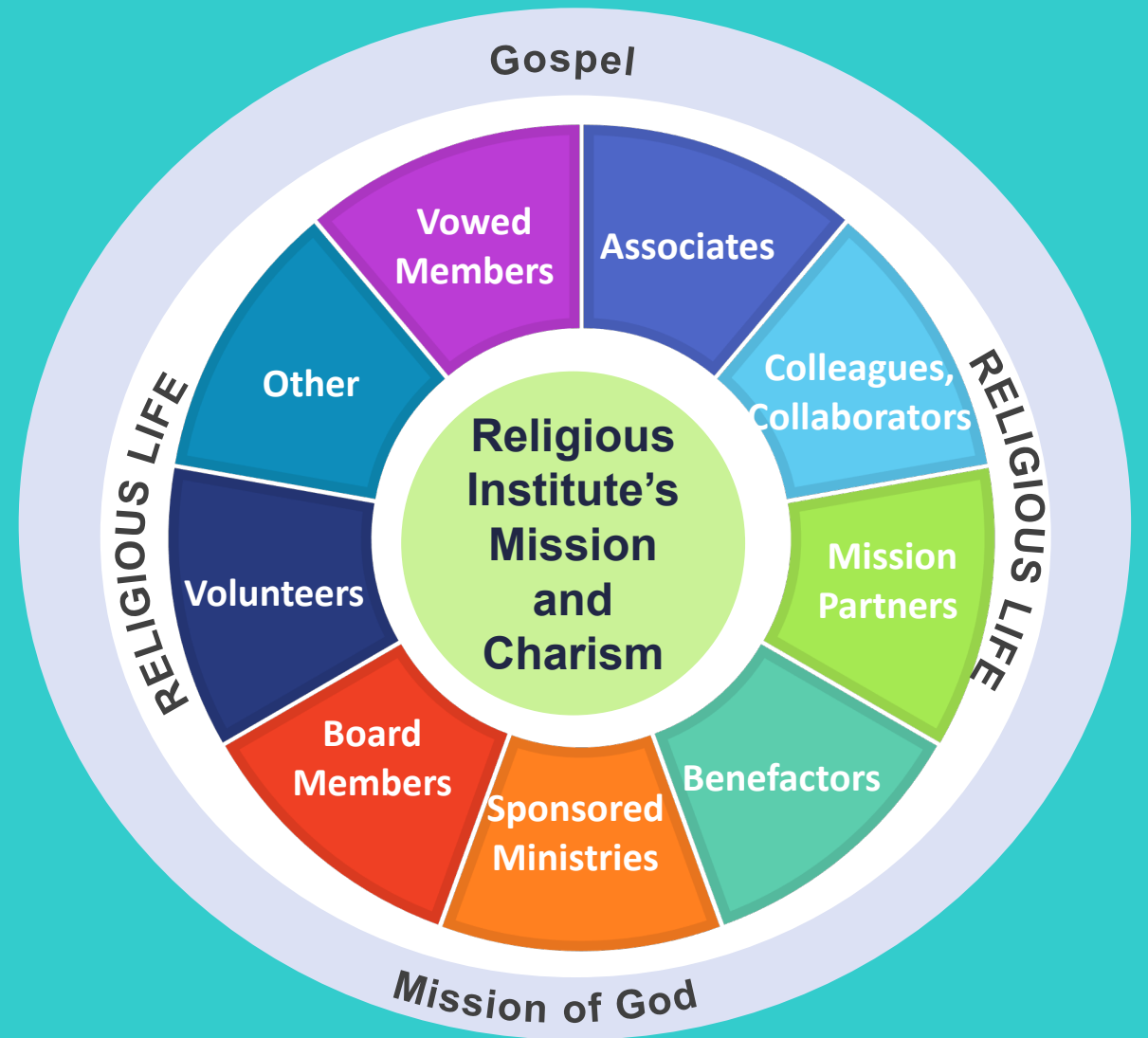
# Post-Vatican II Renewal of Consecrated Life

“.....religious were committed to the very theological insights and ecclesial renewal that was, in fact, deconstructing their own special identity in the Church.”

Sandra Schneiders, IHM  
Address to the Conference of Religious of Ireland, 2014







# Photo credits

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- Julian of Norwich (Oil Painting by Richard Schmid)  
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