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Formation Symposium ★ Pattaya, Thailand ★ July 2-9, 2018

Arrive July 1 ★ Leave July 10

Dear Confreres, Sisters and Lay Partners,

Last year most of you were notified of the upcoming Symposium on Formation for the Apostolic Life. The dates are July 2-9, 2018 and the venue is the Redemptorist Center, Pattaya Thailand. It is my pleasure to again bring the symposium to your attention and issue you with a warm invitation to attend and supply you with the necessary forms.

The Symposium is advertised as being for Leaders and Formators. Experience shows that facilitating change in any of our Units is difficult if the leadership is not on side, or do not understand what is at stake. It is for that reason that (Vice) Provincials, Regional Superiors and Leadership Teams are invited to the Symposium. Formators at every level are also invited and encouraged to come. Future or likely Formators are invited too. In fact anyone who is in a solid position to positively influence formation policy is invited. A qualified, skilled and warm team of presenters and facilitators will lead the symposium: *Dr Gerardine Taylor, Dr David Leary OFM, Dr Gabriel Dy-Liacco and Dr Tony Robinson* (See invitation form).

Unit Leaders, please pass on this information (with accompanying documents) to the confreres on your leadership team and to your formators at each level. You may also solicit the attendance of those in your Unit who have not received a direct invitation but who are in some way connected with formation or whom you believe to be true change agents for formation.

Please find accompanying:

- A Symposium *Flyer*
- Your personal *Invitation* to the Symposium
- Your *Registration form* for the Symposium
- Your *Payment form* to cover some of the costs of running the symposium

Details on accompanying attachments direct you to sending documents such as passport details, registration and payment.

You are welcome to come early for the Symposium or remain on afterwards. Just ensure you have that marked on your registration form and your payment form.

According to the information you give us on the registration form, and the copy of your travel tickets, arrangements will be made to pick you up from Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport. Opportune (but not exclusive) times to arrive are between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm or between 4.00 pm and 6.30 pm on Sunday July 1, 2018. That allows for van loads to travel to Pattaya.

The original cut off for registrations was May 1. Some Units have given notice that they are sending representatives but as yet have not registered. To make provision for everyone who wants to be at the symposium, we are extending the registration period until May 15. However, there will be no extensions after May 15. If superiors, their councils and formators are coming to the symposium, **please REGISTER NOW**. Please read all accompanying documents. We look forward to your participation and that of leaders and formators from your Unit.

Rome was not built in a day. Neither will that rethinking of Formation integral to the restructuring of the Congregation come about in a single Symposium. The organisers envisage such symposia occurring regularly. We would love you to be part of the movement from the start.

In communio and with warm regards
Your brother,

(Edmond Nixon, CSSR)

