

Religious Formation Conference Congress
2017 Mary Emil Penet Award presented to Mary Pat Garvin, RSM.
November 18, 2017

On Nov. 18 at the closing banquet of the RFC Congress (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA) Mary Pat Garvin, RSM will be awarded the 2017 Mary Emil Penet Award – an award that honors an outstanding contribution to the development of formation ministry on the national and international level. Below is the script of the award ceremony.

Mary Pat Garvin, RSM, is a member of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas. A life-long educator, Mary Pat earned her bachelor's degree in history and both a master's and a doctorate in psychology at the Pontifical Gregorian University, where she was a faculty member from 1994-2001.

For more than twenty years prior to serving a recently completed term in leadership for her own congregation, Mary Pat worked with national conferences of religious in the United States and abroad as well as with a range of religious congregations in North and South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa as a consultant, workshop and seminar presenter, and facilitator. Especially interested in the interplay of spirituality and psychology in promoting a mature living of religious life, she has focused much of her energy on the formation of competent women and men religious capable of meeting the challenges facing their congregations, whether through roles of leadership or as directors of initial or lifelong formation. A clear recognition of Mary Pat's generous service to religious life across the globe was the invitation extended to her by the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) to offer a keynote address, *Graced Companionship: A Metaphor for Religious Leadership Today*, at their triennial assembly in 2013 in Rome.

Well-known to and respected by members of the Religious Formation Conference, Mary Pat has collaborated with the RFC in a variety of ways: as a presenter at *ForMission* and other Conference programs, a writer for *InFormation*, a consultant to the national office staff, and as a presenter in regional formation programs.

For her outstanding contribution and steadfast commitment to the initial and lifelong formation of women and men for religious life and mission in the United States and beyond, the Religious Formation Conference is honored to present the 2017 Mary Emil Penet Award to Mary Pat Garvin, RSM.