

March 1, 2021

Dear Participant,

My name is Sister Maria Clara Kreis, a Sister of Divine Providence, and I am a Visiting Scholar at Catholic Theological Union and Lead Researchers of the International LSSAW/MR Project. It is with great excitement, and in deep gratitude that I can share with you that Catholic Theological Union and their received grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc is promoting the use of the copyrighted instrument known as the "Life Satisfaction Scale for Apostolic Women/Men Religious (LSSAW/MR)." The LSSAW/MR is designed to assess satisfaction levels among Roman Catholic apostolic women/men religious.

The development of the LSSAW/MR was originally the focus of my dissertation and I am very grateful for the guidance and support of my dissertation committee and many women religious worldwide. Please note that the term 'apostolic women/men religious', for the purposes of this study, includes all religious who minister in an apostolate (e.g. teaching, pastoral work) regardless of their designation as apostolic religious, evangelical (e.g. Franciscans) or monastic (e.g. Benedictines).

In collaboration, with CTU and with the support of our research team, I am currently working on extending the "International LSSAW/MR Project" to men religious (priests & brothers) in the English, Spanish, and German version. Our goal is for the LSSAW/MR to be used to assist women/men religious individually as they discern their commitment to religious life and its call to be of service to the world.

We are grateful to your leadership and/or others who informed you about this research and we are excited about your interest and participation in this online study. Please note that the support of your leadership and/or others of this study does not obligate your participation in this study. Furthermore, your online participation would be completely voluntary and confidential.

With regard to maintaining the confidentiality of each member who volunteers their participation, please note that only my immediate research team and I (Sr. M. Clara Kreis; Lead Researcher) will have access to the correspondence from the participating members. This survey includes eight sections such as responding to yes/no and rating questions as well as providing short answers to open-ended questions. Prior research has indicated that it can be completed in about 40 to 50 minutes.

In addition, we are looking for some participants to complete a portion of the survey a second time. Only members who have volunteered their email address because they want to complete the LSSAW/MR and the Health Screening Questionnaire (HSQ) twice will be contacted so that they can retake these two

instruments approximately a week to two weeks later. Those that are willing to complete this abbreviated survey (about 10-15 minutes) will communicate this directly to Sister Maria Clara Kreis by providing their email information at the end of the initial survey. Additionally, if an individual participant would like feedback about their responses on the LSSAW/MR this will be available in the survey.

It is hoped that the above information helps you to understand the content and context about the purpose and procedures of this study. If you interested in volunteering to participate, **please review and indicate your consent online**. Participants who have reviewed and consented to the consent form online are then able to complete the questionnaire online.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if you have any questions about this study (see contact information at the end of this letter). I would like to thank you in advance for your attention and support of this study. It is my hope that the results of this study can contribute to the future of religious life.

Direct LSSAW/MR Survey Link:

https://ctu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_23iDDWbUEI7ohjZ

Sincerely,

Sister Maria Clara Kreis

Lead Researcher

International LSSAW/MR Project

Contact Information:

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