

10 June 2026

Dear Colleagues

IRISH RELIGIOUS STEWARDSHIP - UPDATE (June 2026)

Since our last update in December 2025, the IRS Working Group continues to work diligently to ensure that several matters have moved forward notably the following:

Constitution

The Constitution for IRS has now been submitted to the Charities Regulator for consideration and approval in line with the requirements. However, with the impending changes coming under the Charities (Amendment) Act 2024, and workload of the Charities Regulator, we do not expect to hear back from them for some time.

In the meantime, we will forge ahead with IRS under the umbrella of AMRI.

Dicastery, Rome

Discussions have taken place with the Dicastery in Rome, who are aware of the development of IRS and the desire to have it recognised and approved by the Holy See and constituted as a public juridical person under Canon Law.

We have requested a meeting with the Dicastery to explain the proposed working of IRS, its relationship to AMRI and to the individual religious institutes and provinces to the Holy See. We hope that this meeting will take place before the summer.

France & Canada

Meetings took place in February and March 2026 with Anne de Richecour of Corref & Compagnie (France), and Joanne Yelle Weatherall of Canadian Religious Stewardship and the members of the Working Group to learn from their experience and to help inform the development of IRS in Ireland.

One of the learnings from these meetings was the need to appoint someone to lead the development of IRS, and to start the initial discussions with Congregations who are struggling or who are nearing completion in Ireland.

Recruitment / Operational Matters

The Working Group has decided to recruit a part time consultant to progress matters and it is hoped that the consultant will be in place by September 2026. We are working with the HR Team on the recruitment of the part time consultant and have a job description for the role.

We will be advertising publicly for the role in June. If you know of anyone suitable for the role please put them in touch with either Nicola Keogh at nkeogh@cantor.com or Fr Aidan McGrath at aidanofm@hotmail.com

The Working Group is also considering key operational and financial matters, including the initial services to be offered and the new consultant will be in contact with you to identify and prioritise the needs of Congregations.

Priorities

Following detailed discussions, we have identified the following priorities for the coming months:

- a) Establish what congregations / groups would like to join IRS fully, or avail of its services.
- b) Identify what services are needed urgently and could be provided by IRS.
- c) Appointment of part time consultant.
- d) Obtain approval from the Charities Regulator.
- e) Obtain approval from the Dicastery.

Funding

As you may be aware, several AMRI members present at the initial gatherings of those interested in IRS offered to support the IRS initiative to get it off the ground by offering seed funding. A letter was issued in December 2025 to those interested congregations represented seeking seed funding for IRS, and the response to date has been very generous.

A further letter was then issued in March 2026 to the wider AMRI membership seeking support for IRS. To date we have received over €500k towards the establishment of IRS.

An interim bank account has been established under AMRI and is now able to receive funds. The account details are:

Account Name: AMRI

Bank: AIB Bank

IBAN: IE52 AIBK 9310 6328 8440 25

SWIFT/BIC: AIBKIE2D

Reference: IRS

If you weren't aware of the request or missed the chance to contribute to **IRS**, you can still donate. Please transfer your contribution to the account mentioned above, include "**IRS**" as the reference, and email a confirmation to info@amri.ie after completing the transfer.

Any support would be welcome and will enable us to continue the development of IRS, an initiative that will provide vital governance and administrative assistance to smaller congregations and those approaching completion—both now and in the years ahead.

Conclusion

Members of the Working Group continue to meet on a regular basis to move forward with IRS from both the civil and canonical perspective. Individual members of the Working Group have also met privately with some congregations to discuss their respective situations, and their needs for the future.

A meeting has also taken place to discuss IRS and its objectives with Mason Hayes Curran, Solicitors, who are satisfied with the model.

If you have any further queries on IRS, please contact either Nicola Keogh at nkeogh@cantor.com or Fr Aidan McGrath at aidanofm@hotmail.com.

Thank you sincerely for your continued support of this important and timely initiative.

Kind regards

Joseph McGee Msc.

**Fr Joe McGee
President AMRI and
Chairperson of IRS Working Group**

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