



2020 Assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Assembly Program God's Infíníte Vísíon: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond

Assembly Schedule

Wednesday, August 12

Session One (1:00 - 3:00 PM ET)
God's Infinite Vision: Opening of the Assembly
Introductions in Small Groups A

Session Two (4:00 - 6:00 PM ET)

- Presidential Address Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ
- Processing in Small Groups B

Thursday, August 13

Session One (1:00 - 3:00 PM ET) Grief as a Catalyst for Transformation and Hope

Contemplative Time for Participants

Session Two (4:00 - 6:00 PM ET) How Are We Being Called into the Future

- Processing in Small Groups B
- Leaders as Meaning-Makers

Friday, August 14

Session One (1:00 - 3:00 PM ET) National Discernment of the Emerging Future of Religious Life

• Processing in Small Groups C

Session Two (4:00 - 6:00 PM ET) A Call to Women Religious Making a Commitment to the Future

- Quiet Time and Processing in Small Group A
- Transfer of LCWR Leadership
- Blessing and Sending Forth of All Participants

Visit the Exhibitors!

Forty-six of LCWR's regular assembly exhibitors will be with us virtually. Please take time to visit them.

On August 12, 13 and 14, the Exhibit Hall will be open to visitors. The exhibitors will be at their booths from **12:00-1:00 PM ET and 3:00-4:00 PM ET each day** for your convenience.





Contemplative Dialogue at the LCWR Assembly

Contemplative dialogue is a way of being together that opens us to perceiving the in-breaking of the Divine within a community. It offers a means of readying the ground for collective transformation.

Contemplative dialogue is a practice that engages us in seeing not only the whole, but seeing from the whole. It is the recognition of our interdependence and engages us in the good and sometimes hard work of opening ourselves to other ways of seeing than our usual patterns allow.

The main movement of contemplative dialogue is from I to We and back to I again -- a continual flow engaging the personal and the collective. This movement from I to We is not about "group think" or about moving to consensus too quickly for the sake of coming to closure. The movement back to I again is so we are integrating what we have learned at a more personal level. Both the I and the We are changing and expanding in this back and forth exchange.

Some Simple Guides to Contemplative Dialogue

- 1. Do not take your own position or present thinking as final. The point is to arrive at what we do not yet know or to arrive at what we already know with added wisdom.
- 2. Speak briefly sharing your thinking/feeling at this point in time. The point is not to impose your thinking/feeling on others but rather to expose it for others to see.
- 3. Practice the discipline of really listening before formulating any response or moving to further reflection. As you listen, look at the person who is speaking.
- 4. Create bridges to another person's thinking/feeling so that the conversation itself models group conversation and not merely individual conversations by people occupying the same physical space.
- 5. Be comfortable with spaces and silence in the conversation.
- 6. Be aware of your own particular patterns that prevent deeper listening -- e.g., a bias toward an idea or person speaking, a history with the present conversation.
- 7. Notice in your body when you sense a different kind of energy signaling that something is happening. Pay attention to that to discover its message.
- 8. Ask yourself, what is the discovery or meaning unfolding among us? What new possibility might be rising?





Notes on Prayer

While we each know that prayer is not limited by time or space or distance, it may still be helpful to have a tangible reminder that we are all praying together, at the same time, even if only through the portal of our computer screens. To that end, you are encouraged to gather two particular items you will be invited to use for certain prayer moments during this assembly.



Lighting a **candle** (real or LED) at the beginning of prayer rituals with a simple prayer uniting yourself to all others completing the same action can be an act of communion.



A **mantle** (a shawl, a scarf, a garment) is a cloak, often worn when traveling. At times it serves to cover, enfold, or envelop. One also takes on a mantle when one assumes a role or task. As well, it can be used to gather when collecting food or firewood. Throughout this assembly, you'll be invited to take on a "mantle" in a symbolic way.

When you see either, or both, of these symbols, you are invited to make them a part of your prayer.

Our Guides for the Assembly

Assembly Facilitator

Pat Kozak, CSJ is a member of the Congregation of St. Joseph, living in Cleveland, Ohio, who serves as a process facilitator for religious institutes throughout the United States and Canada.



Kathy Fletcher Wray serves as a liturgist and pastoral musician for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania, as well as director of the St. Joseph Spirituality Center, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Joseph.





Wednesday, August 12 Session One God's Infinite Vision



Opening Ritual:

God speaks to each of us as he makes us, Then walks with us silently out of the night. These are the words we dimly hear. You, sent out beyond your recall. Go the limits of your longing. Embody me. Flare up like a flame And make big shadows I can move in. Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final. Don't let yourself lose me. Nearby is the country they call life. You will know it by its seriousness. Give me your hand.



-- Ranier Maria Rilke, from Book of Hours: Love Poems to God

Blessed are you who bear the light in unbearable times, Who testify to its endurance amid the unendurable, Who bear witness to its persistence when everything seems in shadow and grief. Blessed are you in whom the light lives, in whom the brightness blazes -your heart a chapel, an altar where in the deepest night can be seen the fire that shines forth in you in unaccountable faith, in stubborn hope, in love that illumines every broken thing it finds.

-- Jan Richardson, "Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light" from Circle of Grace, ©2015 Jan Richardson, Wanton Gospeller Press, Orlando, Florida

> Is there a word, or a phrase, or an image that already strikes a chord, catches your breath, resonates in you as you hear these prayers?

Hold them for a moment and ask for the grace you most need for these days.

Small Group A Conversations

- Introductions
- What are the qualities of the energy you bring to this gathering? ¿Cúales son las cualidades de la energía que usted aporta a esta reunion?
- What are your hopes for yourself these days? Durante estos días, ¿cuales son las esperanzas que tiene para Ud. misma?

Video Greetings:

- Hank Lemoncelli, OMI Staff Member of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Rome
- Marty Margetts Executive Vice-President/Administrative Officer of CHRISTUS Health

Closing Prayer

"Light of a Clear Blue Morning," written by Dolly Parton and performed by Conspirare, conducted by Craig Hella Johnson

Session Two

Video Greeting:

• Rod Hochman, MD – President and CEO of Providence St Joseph Health

Prayer for Openness

"The Woman Who Walked on Water"

She couldn't remember how long she had been riding so low in the water, waves lapping over the edges of the vessel that defined her limits. And she couldn't recall at what point the oars had become one with her hands, their pattern ingrained on her palms. It was not premeditated, but when she heard that voice calling over the water, she let the oars slip into the darkness and she set off across the waves.

-- Jan Richardson, "The Woman Who Walked on Water," from *In Wisdom's Path*, ©2015 Jan Richardson, Wanton Gospeller Press, Orlando, Florida



OPEN UNTO ME



Presidential Address



Jayne Helmlinger is serving her second term as general superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, California. Prior to her current position, she had 25 years of experience as a healthcare executive, and was most recently the executive vice president of mission integration for St. Joseph Health in Irvine, California.

Processing in Small Groups B

- How might leaning into my own vulnerability be transformative? How would I describe this challenge and gift that is facing me?
 ¿Cómo me puedo transformar al apoyarme en mi propia vulnerabilidad?¿Cómo describiría este reto y este don que tengo frente a mí?
- What might this "leaning into" vulnerability look and feel like for me? ¿Cómo me sentiría y como me vería al estar apoyada en mi propia vulnerabilidad?

Wisdom from the Whole



Marge Kloos, SC



Eileen McKenzie, FSPA



Donna Pollard, OP



Debra Sciano, SSND

Closing of the Day

May the longtime sun shine upon you, All love surround you. And the pure, pure light that's within you Guide your way home.

Kundalini farewell blessing Song by Sara Thomsen, used with permission.



May pure light that's within you guide your way home.

Thursday, August 13 Sessíon One

Gession One Grief as a Catalyst for Transformation and Hope



This day will provide you with significant contemplative, quiet time. Allow your mantle to serve as a tangible reminder of being covered by grace. Perhaps you might place it around your shoulders.

Opening Prayer

"In You I Abide"

Open the gift of solitude, Receive deep peace of mind and heart. Quiet all distress, distraction or disdain and in my loving presence remain.

In serenity of stillness I will speak words of comfort and consolation. Let your tears flow – they needn't come to an end for they water the fields of compassion.

To be my compassion in this world you must offer loving kindness to yourself. Be gentle with your words, your thoughts and deeds for you are precious in my eyes.

There is no joy or sorrow I do not know; The human story is my own. I will be with you in each moment of life. Trust my love, in you I abide.

-- Jeanne Cotter, Copyright © GIA Publications, Inc. 2017. All rights reserved.



Gríef as a Catalyst for Transformation and Hope

Panelists



Maureen Geary, OP





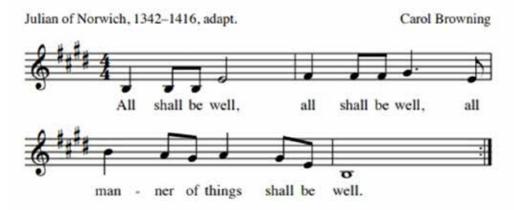
Antoinette Gutzler, MM

Maureen Geary is in her third term on the leadership team of the Dominican Sisters in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She has served as vicaress, prioress, and councilor. Prior to elected leadership she served in college financial administration, diocesan social justice ministry, and a coalition to end homelessness. *Maureen would like to acknowledge that she mistakenly used the French pronunciation of W.E.B. Du Bois in her recorded presentation, unaware of his chosen pronunciation.*

Rebecca Ann Gemma is currently serving a second term as prioress general for the Dominican Sisters of Springfield in Illinois. She had served two terms as council member prior to being elected prioress. She is a licensed clinical social worker and has ministered in the education field as a teacher and principal.

Antoinette Gutzler, a Maryknoll Sister from Queens, New York, has served in mission both in Tanzania and in Taiwan. She was an associate professor of theology at Fu Jen University's St. Robert Bellarmine School of Theology in Taipei until her election to the leadership team of the Maryknoll Sisters in 2014.

ALL SHALL BE WELL



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Contemplative Time

This is a time for you to engage in reflection on your own. Consider finding a place outside of your workspace where you can be alone -- i.e., outdoors, in a prayer space, chapel, etc. Give yourself the gift of space and time where you can be reflective in a non-distracted way with these questions:

- How has the grief and loss of these past months been a catalyst for transformation and hope in me? ¿Cómo han catalizado hacia mi transformación las perdidas y los duelos de los últimos meses?
- What have I discovered? ¿Qué he descubierto?

For Your Journaling

Excerpts from Maureen, Rebecca Ann, and Antoinette

The present will soon pass and the way we embrace it will determine everything.

The space that grief creates is where God works transformation. In this present, permanent now.

No one asks for grief. It comes unbidden. But transformation is a choice born from within the crucible of pain and uncertainty and a choice that demands nothing less than an unswerving courage and endurance to carry on.

The responsibility of leadership is not to "fix it." However, I do believe those of us in this ministry of service are called to see, listen, and love.

The fruits of my contemplation are rarely articulated using words, nor do there seem to be concrete answers to my many questions. I have however experienced a deeper recognition of the Spirit's presence, that of suffering Earth, and most frequently, persons on the margins calling out, "I am here!"

Session Two How Are We Being Called into the Future

Processing in Small Groups B

- How has the grief and loss of these past months been a catalyst for transformation and hope in me? ¿Cómo han catalizado hacia mi transformación las perdidas y los duelos de los últimos meses?
- What have I discovered? ¿Qué he descubierto?

Wisdom from the Whole



Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP



Elizabeth Langmead, MHSH



Lucille Martinez, OLVM



Cyndi Nienhaus, CSA



Sean Peters, CSJ



Joy Peterson, PBVM



Kathy Stein, CSJ



Transformation is a choice born from within the crucible of pain and uncertainty and a choice that demands nothing less than an unswerving courage.

Leaders as Meaning-Makers

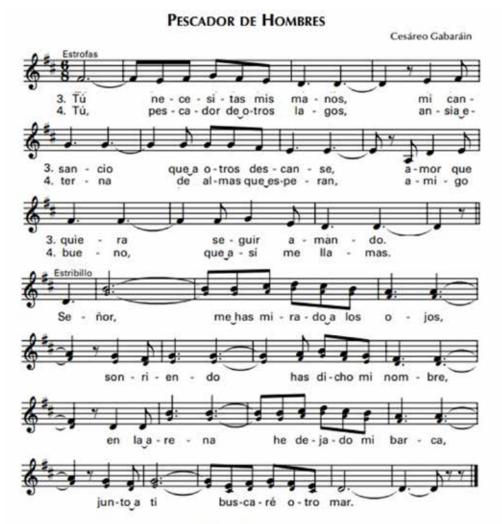


In a posture of Evening Vespers, you are invited to, once again, light your candle, and in a spirit of gathering the graces of the day, place your mantle in your lap. Let us sense the presence of one another, praying in communion.

O God, come to our aid. **ALL: O Lord, make haste to help us.**

ALL: Glory to you, Source of all life, Word Made Flesh and Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen.

In this harvest time of year, O Caregiver of the Earth, we come before you. Much like the farmer who, after a day of sowing and tilling and reaping, stands before the fruits of her labor and offers thanks, so do we offer to you this time of reflection and gratitude. We ask you to sit with us awhile with your abiding presence and bring us to stillness.



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Then, Jesus made his disciples get into the boat and go ahead of him to the other side of Bethsaida, while he himself was sending the crowd away. After bidding them farewell, he left for the mountain to pray.

Reflections:

Lourdes Leal, CDP Margo Ritchie, CSJ Janice Klein, PBVM



Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888 Tune: VILLE DU HAVRE, 11 8 11 9 with refrain; Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

Reflections: Alicia Costa, SSF Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM

"It is Well With My Soul"

Reflections: Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB Jackulin Jesu, SCN

"It is Well With My Soul"

Reflection: Jean Marie Fernandez, RGS Loving Providence, we lift up these words of your faithful women and, as we hold them, take them also to yourself. What you wish each of us to hold, write it on our hearts.

O God, we are not so much the makers in this moment as the ones being made. Keep us strong but soft and pliant, vulnerable yet wise. We pray:

O God hear our prayer.

O God, keep us always aware so that we may become one with the joys and pains of the world. We pray: **O God hear our prayer.**

In the end, O God, you tell us that Faith, Hope, and Love are the three things that last. Let them also be our beacons to light our way through these times. We pray:

O God hear our prayer.

O God, we ask you to breathe in and out your healing upon us, our earth and her people. Break the barriers of fear, anxiety, and injustice that all may be one. We pray:

O God, hear our prayer.

"The Trough"

There is a trough in waves, a low spot where horizon disappears and only sky and water are our company. And there we lose our way unless we rest, knowing the wave will bring us to its crest again. There we may drown if we let fear hold us within its grip and shake us side to side, and leave us flailing, torn, disoriented. But if we rest there in the trough, are silent, being with the low part of the wave, keeping our energy and noticing the shape of things, the flow. then time alone will bring us to another place where we can see horizon, see the land again, regain our sense of where



we are and where we need to swim.

-- by Judy Sorum Brown, from *Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems*, Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby R Wilson, eds., Grayson Books, West Hartford CT, 2017.

"Magnificat"

My soul proclaims your greatness, oh my Lord. And my spirit exults in God my Savior. For you have looked with mercy on my lowliness. And your name shall be forever exulted.

For you, Mighty One have done great things for me. And your mercy will reach from age to age.

And holy, holy, holy is your name.

Reflectors



Alicia C. Costa, SSF

Jean Marie Fernandez, RGS

Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB

Jackulin Jesu, SCN



Lourdes Leal, CDP

Janice Klein, PBVM

Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM

Margo Ritchie, CSJ

Alicia C. Costa is a Sister of the Holy Family of New Orleans, Louisiana who taught middle and high school, served as a vice principal, and taught at Seton Hill University and Xavier University. She has been serving for 10 years as a general councilor and simultaneously for six years as treasurer general.

Jean Marie Fernandez is a member of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd – Mid-North America Province and is a Singaporean Indian. Residing in San Francisco, she is in her sixth year as a council member. She also serves as a case manager/counselor at a homeless shelter in San Francisco and as her province's vocation director.

Jennifer Mechtild Horner is the prioress of Our Lady of Grace Monastery, a Benedictine community in Beech Grove, Indiana. She just completed a three-year term as chair of the Conference of Benedictine Prioresses.

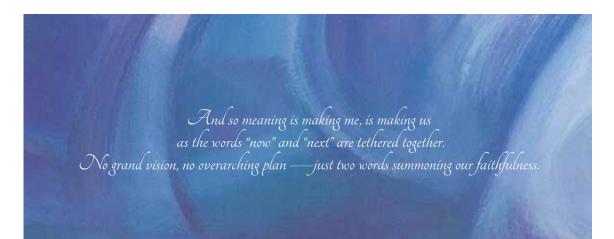
Jackulin Jesu is vice-president and treasurer on the central leadership team of the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. Born in southern India, she has served primarily in northern India where she worked as a teacher and nurse/midwife and later in hospital and health administration. She resides in Nazareth, Kentucky.

Lourdes Leal is a Sister of Divine Providence of San Antonio, Texas serving full time on the general council leadership team. She currently is a co-chair for the local Inter-Congregational Leadership Group of San Antonio (ILGSA).

Janice Klein is president of the Presentation Sisters Aberdeen, South Dakota. She has great passion for the mission of religious life and listens contemplatively to the Spirit as she collaborates to promote human dignity for all, especially for those most in need.

Jocelyn Quijano is a member of Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She currently serves as assistant leader of the USA unit and will begin serving on the LCWR national board.

Margo Ritchie is a member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph in Canada from London, Ontario. She spends most of her time in congregational leadership, spiritual direction work, and facilitation work.



Fríday, August 14

Sessíon One

National Discernment of the Emerging Future of Religious Life

Prayer and Presentations

LCWR Presidents: Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; Elise Garcia, OP; Sharlet Wagner, CSC; and LCWR Executive Director: Carol Zinn, SSJ

Setting the Context

- Overview of 2020-2021 LCWR process
- CARA report presentation Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ
- Imagining possibilities to organize ourselves for mission anew



Thomas P. Gaunt, SJ currently serves as the executive director of the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA). He has recently co-authored *Catholic Bishops in the United States: Church Leadership in the Third Millennium* (2019) and edited *Pathways to Religious Life* (2018).

Next Steps in the National Discernment

Fall 2020/Winter 2021

- LCWR members will receive entire CARA report with a reflection process and feedback form
- Webinar on the national conversation and discernment
- Formation of conversation circles among LCWR members

Spring 2021

- Virtual gatherings of leaders of institutes with a particular focus (i.e., international institutes, provinces, potential collaborative efforts, etc.)
- Establishment of cadre of conversation partners (former LCWR members) who will accompany leadership teams in this process
- Webinar on the national conversation and discernment

Summer 2021

• Preparation for the 2021 LCWR assembly

Planning Team for the National Discernment of the Emerging Future of Religious Life

Mary Dacey, SSJ	Anne Munley, IHM
Bea Eichten, OSF	Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR staff)
Mary Hughes, OP (LCWR staff)	Carol Zinn, SSJ (LCWR staff)

Processing in Small Groups C

- As I listened to the presentation, what was evoked in me? *Mientras escuchaba la presentación, ¿que generó en mi?*
- What was affirmed in my own sense of the current reality as an invitation into a future filled with hope?
 ¿Qué se afirmó en mí en mi propio sentido de realidad actual, invitándome hacia un futuro lleno de esperanza?
- In what way(s) did I feel challenged? Why? ¿De qué otras formas me he sentido desafiada?¿Por qué?
- Other thoughts, insights, questions? ¿Otras ideas, análisis profundos, preguntas?

Session Two

Video Greeting

• Geraldine M. Hoyler, CSC, Religious Institute Consultant, Christian Brothers Services

A Call to Women Religious

Panelists

Heather Malveaux is from and lives in New Orleans, Louisiana where she works as the university minister for social justice and immersion programs at Loyola University New Orleans and a professor at Xavier University of Louisiana in the Institute for Black Catholic Studies. She is deeply passionate about racial justice, public health, and intercultural immersion and exchange. She is currently in her fourth year of law school at Loyola pursuing a juris doctorate and is a graduate of the Clinton School of Public Service and the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences.



Giovana Oaxaca Najera is a DACA-recipient and recent graduate of Pacific University in Oregon with an undergraduate degree in politics and government and economics. Before joining NETWORK Lobby as a government relations associate, she previously interned with an economic consultant firm, as a congressional intern, and participated in local politics through local measures and campaigns. Her work lately has taken her to the steps of the Supreme Court and Congress to advocate for justice for immigrants and other marginalized groups.

Miko Vergun, from Beaverton, Oregon, is a 19-year old federal plaintiff in Juliana et al vs. US, a case brought by youth with the support of Our Children's Trust. A climate activist who draws upon her Marshallese heritage to focus attention on the plight of the Marshall Islands and all the world, she helped to found Youth Acting for Our Earth (YAE!), leads numerous trainings across three states, now studies journalism, psychology, and environmental studies, and holds a State of Oregon Seal of Biliteracy.





Making a Commitment to the Future

"Somos el Barco"

Somos el barco, somos el mar Yo navego en ti, tu navegas en mi We are the boat, we are the sea I sail in you, you sail in me

The stream sings it to the river, the river sings it to the sea The sea sings it to the boat that carries you and me

The boat we are sailing in was built by many hands And the sea we are sailing on, it touches every land

So with our hopes we set the sails and face the winds once more And with our hearts we chart the waters never sailed before

©Wyatt Lorre Recording by Peter, Paul and Mary

Reflection

- What have I discovered new about myself, perhaps new about myself as a leader these days and why is that important? ¿Qué cosas nuevas he descubierto en mi misma, quizás he descubierto en mi una líder en estos días — y por qué eso es importante?
- What will I do differently because of this discovery? What commitment do I make to myself? ¿Qué haría de manera distinta debido a este descubrimiento? ¿Qué compromisos hago para conmigo misma?

For Your Journaling



Processing in Small Group A

Transfer of LCWR Leadership

2019-2020 LCWR National Board

Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ – President Elise García, OP – President-Elect Sharlet Wagner, CSJ – Past President (completing term) Kate Katoski, OSF – Treasurer (completing term) Rita Cammack, OSF (completing term) Yesenia Fernandez, MGSpS (completing term) Marcia Ann Fiutko, FSSJ Susan Francois, CSJP Eileen Haynes, SCL Jane Herb, IHM Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM (completing term) Theresa Sandok, OSM Michelle Marie Stachowiak, CSSF Carol Zinn, SSJ – Executive Director

2020 - 2021 LCWR National Board

Elise García, – President Jane Herb, IHM – President-Elect Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ – Past President Maureen O'Connor, OSF – Treasurer Marcia Ann Fiutko, FSSJ Susan Francois, CSJP Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP Eileen Haynes, SCL Vicky Larson, PBVM Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM Anna Marie Reha, SSND Theresa Sandok, OSM Michelle Marie Stachowiak, CSSF Carol Zinn, SSJ – Executive Director

2020 – 2021 LCWR Regional Chairs

Barbara King, PBVM Cathy Sheehan, DW Eileen White, GNSH Toby Lardie, HM Renée Daigle, MSC Sharon Gray, SCN Ginger Downey, OLVM Betsy Pawlicki, OP Sharon Glumb, SLP Rita Menart, PBVM Helen Jane Jaeb, SSND Elizabeth Ann Vasquez, SSCJ Jan Ginzkey, OSF/Phyllis Stowell, SCL Kathy Stein, CSJ Barbara Schamber, SP

Completing Term as Regional Chair

Jean Steffes, CSA Rosemary DeGracia, OSB Guadalupe Guajardo, SNJM

Blessing and Sending Forth of All Participants

"Somos el Barco"

Somos el barco, somos el mar Yo navego en ti, tu navegas en mi We are the boat, we are the sea I sail in you, you sail in me

Our Expression of Gratitude

Our gratitude goes to all who have made this virtual assembly possible.

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Assembly Liturgist

Kathy Fletcher Wray

Assembly Facilitator

Pat Kozak, CSJ

Nix Conference & Meeting Management

Molly Hackett Lynn Payne Kimberly Ritter Gina Shelton Michelle Welter

LCWR National Office Staff

Christine Beckett, SCN Janette Houhoulis (formerly Cahill) Mary Hughes, OP Marie McCarthy, SP Carol Minovitz (formerly Glidden) Annmarie Sanders, IHM Ann Scholz, SSND Carol Zinn, SSJ

Texts of the presentations will be available on the LCWR website

