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Statement of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious Following August 11
Meeting with Archbishop J. Peter Sartain

[St. Louis, MO] On August 11, Archbishop J. Peter Sartain met for the first time with the
national board of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

The LCWR board members believe they were able to express both their concerns and
their feelings about the CDF report with great openness and honesty, and that
Archbishop Sartain listened carefully. The archbishop asked for assistance from LCWR
to learn more about the conference and about the members’ experience and
understandings of religious life. LCWR will provide Archbishop Sartain with resources
they believe will be helpful, and its officers plan to meet with him again later in the fall.

The LCWR assembly, which closed the day before the board met with Archbishop
Sartain, had charged the board to conduct their conversation with the archbishop from
a stance of mutual respect, careful listening and open dialogue. The expectation of the
LCWR members is that open and honest dialogue may lead not only to increasing
understanding between the church leadership and women religious, but also to
creating more possibilities for the laity and, particularly for women, to have a voice in the
church. Furthermore, the assembly instructed the board to articulate its belief that religious
life, as it is lived by the women religious who comprise LCWR, is an authentic expression of
this life that must not be compromised.