Designated Fund for the Emerging Future of Religious Life

**Purpose:** The purpose of the fund is to support projects which are designed to assure that those living religious life are adequately prepared and supported to bring religious life into a future which is responsive to the needs of the world. Funding is intended primarily to serve women religious under 55 years of age.

**Eligible Applicants:**
- Religious congregations
- LCWR regions
- Charism groupings, and other organizations serving religious life

If an applicant (a grouping of sisters, for example) is not incorporated or is not an LCWR member, a sponsoring LCWR congregation must agree to serve as the fiscal agent for any funds awarded. Grants will not be made to individual persons. Applicants or sponsoring congregations must be 501c3 organizations.

**Guidelines/Funding Criteria:**
- Project must be designed to serve women religious under 55 years of age.
- Project must address at least one of the following areas identified by LCWR as foundational for the emerging future of religious life:
  - Places communal contemplation and discernment at its core;
  - Supports on-going learning in theology, spirituality, leadership, religious life;
  - Advocates around society’s most pressing needs and empowering the world’s most vulnerable citizens;
  - Creates networks, collaboration, and partnerships for community and mission;
  - Engages in intercultural encounter – in ministry and community;
  - Expands the leadership in religious life beyond one’s congregation to a leadership for the whole of religious life.
- Requests for funding must demonstrate how their use would have a long-term impact and deepen the core of religious life for the future.
- Requests for funding may be for improvements to existing programs or to fund new innovative projects. Programs/projects may include, but are not limited to, such areas as:
  - Collaborative mission efforts,
  - Formation and education of younger women religious in topics critical to the future,
  - Gatherings of younger women religious, particularly those which promote increased intercultural connections,
  - Efforts to expand use of technology to connect and empower younger women religious.
- Grants will generally be made for one year with the possibility of renewal upon further discussion.
- To be considered for funding, a completed application form, with appropriate signatures, and a completed budget request form must be sent electronically to LCWR finance manager Kate Katoski, OSF by September 1, 2021.