

2018 LCWR Assembly

BEING THE PRESENCE OF LOVE: THE POWER OF COMMUNION

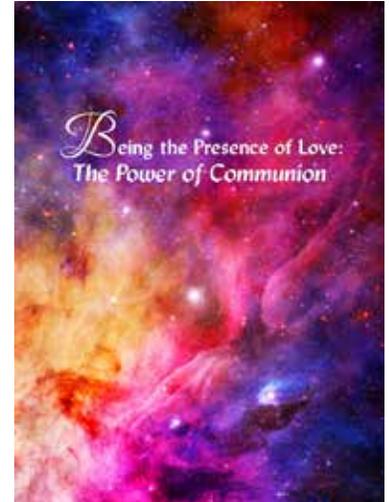
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch -- St. Louis, Missouri

August 7 — 10, 2018

The 2018 LCWR assembly, “**Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion,**” will explore how we might make more intentional choices to foster deep communion in the midst of the diversity in which we live as global citizens today. What are the dispositions needed to live in deep communion, and what relevance does doing so have for women religious leaders at this time?

The entire assembly will be conducted as an experience of contemplative engagement. Designed to help members learn, reflect on, and discuss the power of communion and its relevance for contemporary religious life in a contemplative manner, participants will also leave with contemplative engagement skills that they can apply to their own leadership ministry.

The assembly also can be considered an act of love for our wounded world. Throughout all assembly events we will stay attentive to the needs of the world and consciously direct our energies, thoughts, and love to those places and people in greatest need.



Assembly Highlights

Keynote Sessions

The 2018 assembly keynote sessions will delve more deeply into the call to foster communion in today’s world. The speakers will explore the interrelationship of the universe story, Trinitarian theology, and the narrative of communion, and will show how this relationship impacts our images of God and our call to be a source of hope and love within the world we serve. Special attention will be given to how we might understand our role as transformational leaders and how this might shape the ways in which we exercise our ministry of religious life leadership in these complex times. The presenters will speak from their scholarship as well as their own personal experiences of living and praying from places of deeper communion.

This year the keynote sessions have been designed to mirror the dynamic of communion. At each session, one of the keynoters will offer reflections on an aspect of communion. That presentation will be followed by the two other speakers who will share insights about the fractures of communion in our world and the steps needed to possibly heal those fractures. Following this, several LCWR members will speak to the practical relevance of these ideas for elected leaders today.

Keynoters

Brother Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB, a professor of theology and communications sciences, is of Belgian descent and lives in Puno, Perú. He has worked as a journalist, a seminary formator, and novice master, in addition to teaching at various institutions in Peru. He has served as the coordinator of the theological consultation team for Confederation of Latin American Religious (CLAR), as well as the director of its theological journal. He holds

an advanced degree in theology as well as a doctorate in communication sciences. He has published numerous books in Spanish and French, including these on religious life: *¿Adónde Vamos?*, *La era de la Mariposa*, and *Talithá Qum. Una nueva Vida Religiosa para un nuevo discipulado*, as well as several articles in English. He was a keynoter at the 2016 assembly of the Canadian Religious Conference and has addressed numerous chapters and assemblies of women religious. He has been a priest since 1981.



Heidi Russell is an associate professor at the Institute of Pastoral Studies at Loyola University in Chicago who holds an MDiv from Washington Theological Union and a PhD in religious studies from Marquette University. She has written three books: *Source of All Love: Trinity and Catholicity*; *The Heart of Rahner*; as well as *Quantum Shift: Theological and Pastoral Implications of Contemporary Developments in Science*, in which she explores recent developments in science and then suggests ways in which people of faith might engage these scien-



tific developments to foster their understanding of God. Prior to teaching, she served for six years as a parish director of Christian formation.

Gloria L. Schaab, a Sister of Saint Joseph of Philadelphia, is a professor of systematic theology and chair of the department of theology and philosophy at Barry University in Miami, Florida. She holds a PhD in systematic theology from Fordham University and an MA in religious studies from LaSalle University. She has published and lectured extensively on the theology of Trinity as seen through the lens of evolutionary science, with particular focus on the mystery of God and suffering. In 2015, she received the Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal for Theological Excellence by Mount Saint Joseph University in Cincinnati, OH and in 2017 presented the Theological Institute “God in an Evolving Cosmos,” sponsored by the Sisters of Saint Joseph of Concordia, KS. Her books include: *Trinity in Relation: Creation, Incarnation, and Grace in an Evolving Cosmos*; *If God is For Us: Christian Perspectives on God and Suffering*; and *The Creative Suffering of the Triune God: An Evolutionary Theology*.



Presidential Address

LCWR president **Teresa Maya, CCVI** will address the assembly on Wednesday, August 8.



Deepening Groups

During the assembly, participants will have two opportunities to participate in a deepening group, an experience designed to provide personal reflection time and an opportunity to share with and learn from the wisdom of others.

Within these sessions, participants, in groups of six, will engage in a contemplative dialogue, based on the proceedings of the assembly. Within the dialogue experience, the participants will hold their own points of view gently, while listening carefully to those of others, with the goal of experiencing the emergence of larger understandings of the subjects discussed.

Participants have the option of being in a deepening group with others with whom they have something in common – i.e., leaders from international communities, leaders of congregations who are coming to completion, leaders of religious institutes of 50 or fewer members, leaders who are Spanish-speaking, leaders who are the major superior, or leaders who are age 60 or younger. Although specific issues pertinent to these groupings will not necessarily be discussed, some assembly participants enjoy processing with others who are in similar circumstances. Other participants may simply indicate that they wish to be placed in a more mixed group of leaders. *(Please be sure to indicate on your registration form the type of group to which you wish to be assigned.)*

Being in Communion with the Wounded World

The intention of the entire LCWR assembly will be for those parts of the world and this nation where fractures in communion are deeply evident and destructive. We will keep reminders before us that our very act of gathering has the potential to place love on the currents of consciousness and direct it to the places of greatest pain, sorrow, and loss in this wounded world.

Participants will be invited to intentionally hold various fractured parts of the world in their thoughts, their moments of quiet, and their times of prayer throughout the assembly. Various experiences of communal prayer and contemplation for the needs of the world will also be woven through the events of these days.

The Parkview Room in the hotel will be dedicated as contemplative space and will be available for our use at any time of the day or night throughout the assembly. Participants are encouraged to spend time in that space and consciously join their contemplative prayer with others for the needs of the world. Three optional sessions will also be offered when members may gather together in that space for a period of more focused contemplation.

On Friday, August 10, members of LCWR Region 10 will lead the assembly in a closer look at racism and how it has been an impediment to communion in the world and in this country. Assembly participants will be invited at that time to participate in an act of solidarity with all whose lives have been devastated by prejudice and discrimination.

Outstanding Leadership Award

The LCWR 2018 Outstanding Leadership Award recipient will be **Anita Baird**, a member of the Daughters of the Heart of Mary. She has played significant roles in addressing the root causes of racism on local and national levels within the Catholic Church and in the civic community. The award will be presented to Anita at the assembly banquet on Friday, August 10.



New Member Orientation

Any LCWR member who is attending an LCWR assembly for the first time, or any current member who has been out of leadership for a few years is encouraged to attend the New Member Orientation on **Tuesday, August 7 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM**. Participants will receive valuable information, not only about the assembly, but also about the organization.

Spanish Language Tables

Since Spanish is the first language of several LCWR members, we provide the opportunity for those leaders to be at tables where they can process the assembly in the language that is most comfortable for them. In order to have diversity at those tables, we invite any member who speaks Spanish to consider participating at a Spanish-speaking table. *(Those wishing to do so are asked to indicate this on their registration form.)*

In Service of the Assembly

Catherine Bertrand, SSND will serve as the assembly facilitator. Cathy currently works as a facilitator for religious institutes, and previously served in religious life leadership, as a member of the LCWR national board, and as executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference.



Liz Sweeney, SSJ will serve as the contemplative guide for the assembly, helping members to be intentional about listening to the movement of God as it affects each one personally and flows among us as a communal body. Liz works as a spiritual director and small group facilitator at Jesus House Prayer and Renewal Center in Wilmington, Delaware.



Kathy Fletcher Wray will serve as the assembly liturgist. Kathy is the coordinator of worship and the director of the St. Joseph Spirituality Center for the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden, Pennsylvania.



Assembly Schedule

Tuesday, August 7, 2018

1:00 PM	Registration Opens
2:00 PM	New Member Orientation
4:30 PM	Deepening Group Facilitators Meeting
7:00 PM	Opening of the Assembly
8:30 PM	Social with Light Refreshments

Wednesday, August 8, 2018

7:00 AM	Eucharistic Liturgy
9:00 AM	Opening of the Day
9:15 AM	Presidential Address Teresa Maya, CCVI
11:15 AM	Deepening Groups
12:30 PM	Lunch on your own
2:00 PM	Keynote Session One <i>Br. Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB; Heidi Russell; Gloria Schaab, SSJ</i>
4:15 PM	Processing
4:45 PM	Candidates' Forum
5:30 PM	Reflection on the Day
5:45 PM	Closing
8:30 PM	Communal Contemplation (optional)

Thursday, August 9, 2018

7:00 AM	Eucharistic Liturgy
8:50 AM	Voting on Candidates
9:00 AM	Keynote Session Two
11:15 AM	Deepening Groups
12:30 PM	Lunch on your own
2:30 PM	Emerging Wisdom
2:45 PM	LCWR Matters -- Executive Session
4:30 PM	Moving Forward
5:15 PM	Reflection on the Day and Process
5:30 PM	Closing
8:30 PM	Communal Contemplation (optional)

Friday, August 10, 2018

7:45 AM	Communal Contemplation (optional)
9:00 AM	Keynote Session Three
11:00 AM	Assembly Resolution Hearing Being in Communion: Standing Against Racism
12:15 PM	Lunch on your own
2:00 PM	Committing to the Future
2:45 PM	Transfer of Leadership Ritual
3:45 PM	Eucharistic Liturgy
7:00 PM	Banquet Outstanding Leadership Award Presentation Closing of the Assembly

Hotel

Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the Arch

315 Chestnut Street

St. Louis, Missouri

Tel.: 314-655-1234

stlouisarch.regency.hyatt.com/en/hotel/home.html

All hotel reservations must be made online at:

www.nixmeetings.com/STLLCWR18

We urge you to stay at this hotel and to complete your reservations no later than **July 13, 2018**. LCWR's room rates, as well as its payments for meeting spaces, are dependent on filling a set number of rooms as specified in our contract with the hotel. Assembly costs will be much higher if LCWR does not meet the room count.

Single Occupancy:	\$ 139
Double Occupancy:	\$ 139
Triple Occupancy:	\$ 164
Quadruple Occupancy:	\$ 189
Regency Club:	\$ 189 (+50)
Junior Suites:	\$ 239

Rooms may also be reserved at this price for three days prior to and three days following the assembly dates.

To ensure that you receive these rates please make your reservation by the cut-off date of **July 13, 2018**. After that date you may be required to pay full price for these rooms. The hotel will honor sleeping room cancellations received 24 hours prior to arrival. Cancellations after this time will not receive a refund. Check in is at 4:00pm; Check out is at 12:00pm.

Registration Fees

Before June 21	\$455.00 USD
June 22-July 15	\$465.00 USD
After July 15	\$500.00 USD
After August 1	\$515.00 USD

For cancellations before June 21 all but a \$50 processing fee will be refunded. Only a 50% refund will be made for cancellations between June 22 and July 15. No refunds will be made for cancellations after July 15, 2018. We cannot make exceptions to the cancellation policy.

After you [register online](#), a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you. After completing the online registration, you must send a check for the assembly registration fee made payable only in USD to LCWR Assembly and mail it to:

LCWR Assembly
8808 Cameron Street
Silver Spring, MD 20910

A growing number of congregations no longer have the funds to afford the costs of attending an LCWR assembly and request

financial assistance from LCWR. We ask you to consider making a donation to the LCWR Scholarship Fund so that the conference can offer some assistance to leaders who request help. Please include your donation with your check for your own assembly registration and indicate on the check that the donation is included. For more information, contact Christine Beckett, SCN. If your congregation needs scholarship support to attend the assembly, you may also [contact Christine Beckett, SCN](#).

Airports and Ground Transportation

Use St. Louis Lambert International Airport.

Shuttle Service

The link below will offer a 10% discount to all LCWR attendees who book no later than August 5th, 2018. A round-trip reservation should cost less than \$41.

gobestexpress.com/reservations?code=LCWR

Driving Directions

Depart toward Lambert International Blvd. Keep straight onto Lambert International Blvd. Turn left to stay on Lambert International Blvd. Take ramp right for I-70 West toward Rental Car Return. Keep right onto Airflight Dr. Take ramp right for I-70 East toward St. Louis. Pass Holiday Inn Express. At exit 249A, take ramp left for I-44 West toward Memphis/Tulsa. At exit 292B, take ramp right and follow signs for Broadway. Turn left onto Chestnut St. Arrive at Chestnut St. Hotel is on the left. The last intersection is N 4th St. If you reach N Memorial Dr, you've gone too far.

Hotel Parking

Hotel Self-Parking:

Self-parking at the hotel is based on limited availability.

Rates: 0-1 Hours.....\$15 plus tax

1-4 Hours.....\$25 plus tax

4-overnight.....\$29 plus tax

Valet Parking:

Pick up on P1 level at the Motor Lobby.

0-1 Hours | \$25.00 + tax

1-4 Hours | \$30.00 + tax

4-6 Hours | \$35.00 + tax

6-Overnight Parking: \$39.00 + tax

Public Self-Parking:

Mansion House Garage: located directly behind Hyatt at 330 N. 4th St.

Rates: 7 days a week | \$16 a day

Please Enter at Mansion House Apartments. No in/out privileges. Rates subject to change during special events and cannot be billed to guestroom.

Kiener East Garage: located at 500 Pine St.

Rates: 20 minutes | \$1 (\$20 max)

Overnight | \$20

No in/out privileges. Rates subject to change during special events and cannot be billed to guestroom.

Candidates for LCWR President

During the assembly LCWR members will hear from and vote for a new LCWR president. Candidates are:

- Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ
- Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN



Bulletin Boards: Messages and announcements may be posted near the main entrance by the ballroom. The hotel does not permit posting of materials on the wall.

CDs/DVDs/MP3's of Assembly Presentations:

Orders for CDs and DVDs will be taken by the Grand Ballroom. Representatives will be available:

Wednesday, August 8 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Thursday, August 9 7:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday, August 10 7:00 AM - 9:30 PM.

LCWR requests that copies are not made of the presentations since the sale of the presentations is revenue to support the costs of the assembly.

Coffee Breaks: Regency Ballroom

Please make sure you visit the exhibitors and thank the sponsors whose generosity helps cover the costs of the assembly.

Contemplative Prayer Space:

The Parkview Room will be available for quiet prayer and reflection.

Exhibits:

A wide selection of goods and services is represented in the Regency Ballroom exhibit area.

Hours of Operation:

Tuesday, August 8 1:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Wednesday, August 9 7:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Thursday, August 10 7:30 AM - 11:15 AM

Handout Materials: ONLY LCWR Assembly program-related materials may be placed on the participants' tables in the ballroom. Members may distribute or pick up materials about programs offered or promoted by religious congregations and organizations near the registration tables.

Lost and Found: A lost and found will be located in the registration area.

Hotel Amenities:

- Complimentary wireless in every hotel room
- Airline Boarding Pass Kiosk

