

## Sexuality: An Evolving Understanding An LCWR Webinar with Lynn Levo, CSJ

*We are ecclesial women, living in hope, rooted in the mission of Jesus.  
We claim our prophetic role and inherent responsibility in the church by grounding  
all we are and all we do in a contemplative stance, by living in right relationship  
with all creation and being in solidarity with the global community.  
We live in a world filled with the action of God's creating love and are partners of that  
divine activity in a time when major social and global change creates  
both enormous challenge and significant opportunity.  
We abide in a church whose members experience a renewed call to live the heart of the Gospel.  
We commit ourselves to work with others to nurture a church that is a more inclusive,  
welcoming community, one that encourages meaningful expressions of faith and spirituality.  
We seek to bring science, theology, and lived-experience into greater dialogue and desire to create safe,  
honest places for open exploration of the pressing questions of our times.*

■ Excerpts from the LCWR Call 2015-2022

As LCWR, we have worked in the spirit of solidarity over the years as we engaged the social justice issues of our day through the lens of the Gospel, Catholic Social Teaching, the role of women religious, and the mission of LCWR. Our journey has taken us to the issues of racism, immigration, poverty, climate change, refugees, economic inequality, and a myriad of other aches that claimed our hearts.

Several months ago a working group of LCWR members and LCWR board members engaged in conversation and discernment about the contemporary civil and ecclesial reality of another important matter – the struggles of our LGBTQI sisters and brothers. Realizing that those who identify as LGBTQI often experience discrimination and injustice, it became clear that LCWR members have a responsibility to be well informed about this reality, particularly since the struggles and hopes of LGBTQI persons impact our communities, ministries, employees, and perhaps, our family and friends. To that end, we are offering a webinar as a way to begin a conference-wide reflection on this reality.

We encourage all LCWR members to participate in this first webinar, *Sexuality: An Evolving Understanding*, on **Thursday, April 30, 2020 from 2:00 to 3:15 PM Eastern Time**. Lynn Levo, CSJ, will present the webinar and invite LCWR members to a deeper, accurate, and current understanding of what it means to be human, how respect for diversity is key to unity, how integral relationships are to communion, and how contemporary science, theology, and culture prompt a deeper conversation and consciousness on the reality of sexual diversity.

When this webinar was originally developed, the invitation was for teams to view it together for communal reflection and conversation. In these days of COVID-19 social distancing and staying at home, it is likely that leadership teams are unable to view the webinar together in the same location. Nonetheless, we encourage you to register for the webinar and then plan as a team to engage in some communal reflection when you are able. More information about next steps will be provided at the end of the webinar.

For those unable to participate in the live webinar, a recorded session will be available for viewing at a later time.