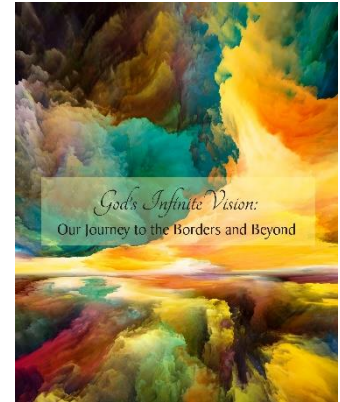


# God's Infinite Vision: Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond

## August 12, 13, 14 - Virtual LCWR Assembly

This year's LCWR assembly will be held virtually over the course of August 12, 13, and 14. The times will be structured to include collective prayer and ritual, some presentations, time and space for silence and reflection, and multiple opportunities for contemplative dialogue with one another. Ample time will be given for breaks during the daily sessions and we will strive to make the assembly an enjoyable and easy experience for all.



The exploration of the assembly theme has taken on a new urgency because of both the pandemic and this period of social unrest in the nation and the impact of these two realities on life on many significant levels. Being together seems even more imperative. We need time with one another in prayer, conversation, and discernment about how these realities are changing our lives, our institutes, the people we serve, and literally, the entire global community. The world is being irrevocably changed and it cries out for healing, care, and transformation. This assembly will provide times for us to listen together to those cries and ask ourselves collectively how to respond. What does it mean to be in leadership at such a fragile, uncertain time? How do we lead effectively through this crisis? What might we learn from one another? And, what new opportunities have the pandemic and the cries for racial justice provided to change the world order to more closely align with God's infinite vision? What is ours to do to help bring about this vision?

## Schedule and Speakers

### Wednesday, August 12

#### Session One (1:00 - 3:00 PM ET)

- Welcome
- Ritual to Open the Assembly
- Orientation to the Virtual Assembly
- Introductions in Small Groups

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

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

## Thursday, August 13

### Session One (1:00 - 3:00 PM ET)

#### **Grief as a Catalyst for Transformation and Hope**

Three LCWR members will speak to how they have been impacted as leaders by the challenging last few months and how their experiences have become catalysts for significant transformation -- for themselves and for their institutes.

**Panelists:** Maureen Geary, OP; Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP; Antoinette Gutzler, MM

#### **Contemplative Time for Participants**

All assembly participants will have time to engage in reflection on their own. Participants may wish to anticipate where they will spend this time period -- i.e., outdoors, in a prayer space, chapel, etc. We recommend that participants do not stay in their work space for this, but rather give themselves the gift of space and time solely for their own prayer and reflection in a non-distracted way.

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

#### **How Are We Being Called into the Future**

A facilitated contemplative dialogue to share the richness of our prayer and reflection on what we are being invited to be and do in light of these times.

#### **Ritual of Meaning-Making**

Within a context of ritual, we will hear from eight LCWR members on how they have taken the pain of the world and of their own religious institutes and have found ways to make meaning and keep hope alive. The ritual is designed to help all participants name for themselves what helps them keep going forward with hope and find meaning even in the midst of some bleak and trying times.

**Presenters:** Alicia Costa, SSF; Jean Marie Fernandez, RGS; Jennifer Mechtild Horner, OSB; Jackulin Jesu, SCN; Janice Klein, PBVM; Lourdes Leal, CDP; Jocelyn Quijano, PBVM; Margo Ritchie, CSJ

## Friday, August 14

### Session One (1:00 - 3:00 PM ET)

#### **National Discernment of the Emerging Future of Religious Life**

This session will explore this new moment in religious life and how it may be calling us to a new way of imagining this life in the very near future. This will include input from the two 2020 studies conducted on religious life by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) -- one on recent vocations to religious life and the other on the capacity of US religious institutes for leadership in the future.

**Presenters:** Tom Gaunt, SJ, Executive Director of CARA and the LCWR Presidents: Jayne

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

### **Processing**

The implications of this presentation will be processed in small groups of leaders, associates, and facilitators.

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

#### **A Call to Women Religious**

Three young persons committed to the work of climate change, racism, and migration will address the challenges the pandemic and the outcry against racism have uncovered and the opportunities they see for a more hopeful future.

#### **Making a Commitment to the Future**

#### **Blessing of LCWR Leadership and Sending Forth of All Participants**

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### **Spanish Language**

Since Spanish is the first language of several LCWR members and some of our guests, we will provide both translation services as well as 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 utilize the translation services and/or sit at a Spanish-speaking table are asked to indicate this on their registration form.)

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### **In Service of the Assembly**

**Pat Kozak, CSJ** will serve as the assembly facilitator. Pat currently works as a facilitator for religious institutes in the United States and Canada and previously served in leadership for her congregation. She lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

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

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### **Visit the Exhibitors**

The online platform we will use for the assembly allows our exhibitors to be present with us. You will receive information about how to visit them and we encourage you to make the time to do so, particularly since their participation in our assemblies makes a significant financial contribution to LCWR. The exhibit space will be open for one hour prior to the start of each day

(i.e., 12:00 PM Eastern) and during the one-hour break in between the sessions each day. In some cases you will be able to speak with those staffing the exhibit, in addition to viewing their displays and making purchases.

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## Scheduling Additional Gatherings

If any members wish to gather during some of the unscheduled times of the assembly -- i.e., for a federation meeting, a region event, or just some friends who wish to be together over a meal or a social -- you are asked to make those connections and arrangements on your own using your own Zoom or other videoconferencing platforms.

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## Registration Fee

- **The registration fee is \$300 per person for the three-day assembly.** The fee will be paid to Nix by credit card or check.
  - Registrations need to be made individually including your email address. You will need to create a password that you will need to log on to the virtual meeting platform for each session.
  - **If you are an LCWR member and you and/or your leadership team need FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE to attend the assembly, please contact Christine Beckett, SCN at [cbeckett@lcwr.org](mailto:cbeckett@lcwr.org) or Carol Glidden at [cglidden@lcwr.org](mailto:cglidden@lcwr.org) before registering for the assembly.**
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