**Solidarity with Sisters Communal Contemplative Prayer – June 9-10**

**GATHERING**

O God who creates and who gives breath,

be with us now as we come to you

with the great longings of our world

and of our selves.

We come together

trusting that the Spirit will be at work in us

as breath that gives us life –

as fire that impels us –

as stillness that makes us spacious.

Help us to let go and to let come.

Help us to live the questions

and to move with you, in you, and toward you,

ever open to what is waiting to be born in us.

**BEING HERE: Come as you are, in divine presence…**

We are moving from coming here to being here... Give your mind a vacation and let yourself become aware of your body... Notice all the parts of your body that are supported – how the chair holds you, how your feet are free to rest easily on the floor… Notice your breath… Let it slow and deepen… As you exhale, feel your body soften and relax as you release your breath into union with all the air of this Earth, all the breaths of trees and plants, of birds and animals and humans. As you inhale, welcome God into you. Let’s give 10 minutes of silence to offer our full attention to God and to ask the Holy Spirit to inhabit us.

**(10 minutes of silence)**

**AWARENESS** (Reader, please don’t read aloud the parenthetical attributions in a smaller font.)

As we move toward 20 minutes of silence together, let us listen to parts of a reflection from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious called [*How Love Makes Us Real*](https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/page/files/how_love_makes_us_real.pdf) and to a few lines from Ephesians. We ask the Spirit to lead us from these words to wherever God is waiting for us:

“Love makes us real. Love creates us and sustains us in the process of realizing who we already are. Love breaths us into being (Gen. 2:7). God is divine breath breathing. Humanity is the divine breath breathed…. There are some things that Love alone can do. Love plumbs the depths that our thinking mind cannot…” (Martin Laird, *An Ocean of Light*, excerpts from the Preface)

To be attuned to God’s presence in the stillness of the heart is to become who we really are. The practice of sitting in silence, willing to let go of thoughts and images so that one can lean into the Presence of Love seems to be an essential starting place. And then every moment of our daily life in all its ordinariness becomes the way we bring this gift to the world.” *(LCWR)*

Out of God’s infinite glory, may God give us the power through the Spirit for our hidden selves to grow strong, so that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. And then, planted in love and built on love, we will with all the saints have strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; until, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond all knowledge, we are filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Amen. (Ephesians 3:16-20)

Let us give 20 minutes to moving from these words to wherever God is waiting for us.

**(20 MINUTES OF SILENCE)**

**INTENTION**

Let’s invite each other to share the prayers that arise in us now.

Response: Holy One, hear our prayer.

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious and Catholic sisters lean into the Presence of Love and permit Love to shape their lives. May we support them, and do the same. For this we pray. Holy One, hear our prayer.

(Shared prayers)

**CLOSING**

We place all of our prayers, those spoken and those unspoken, into your loving care, and we entrust the outcome to you. As we do, we use the [words](https://lcwr.org/sites/default/files/calendar/attachments/lcwr_2016_assembly_keynote_-_pat_farrell_osf.pdf) of Sister Pat Farrell. “There is so much more going on within and around us than we will ever be able to perceive. The unseen movement of Love is creatively holding everything together in ways infinitely beyond what we could ask or imagine.” We ask the Spirit to “open space in us to flow with what we cannot see, with what is beyond us. Yet the path remains always a walk in the dark. We walk it together, summoning one another to deepening faith in the invisible energy of Love that surrounds and carries us.” And so we pray together: Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth. Amen.

**SIGN OF PEACE**