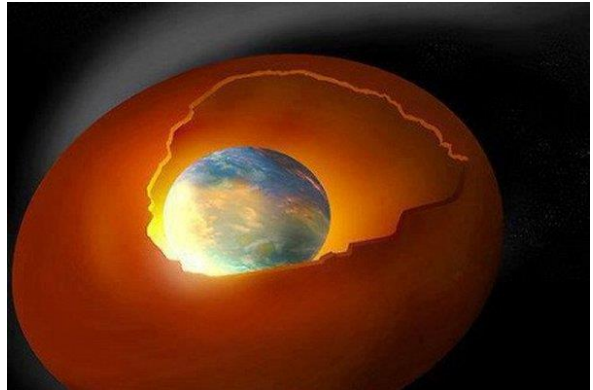


Solidarity with Sisters Communal Contemplative Prayer (Lent 2020)

Wherever we are, we enter holy silence together, open to divine movement within us and among us.
Use as much or as little of what's below as you wish.

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
during this Lenten season of conversion
for transformation.
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.



AWARENESS

O God, you live in us. We live in you. You hold all that is.
You invite us to see ourselves with your eyes,
which are always loving.
You invite us to see with your loving eyes
the people, realities, and longings on all sides.

We stand at a crossroads, a place of choices,
in our country, our church, our world, our communities.

We stand where many roads intersect.
People and needs arrive from all directions
with their gifts and their baggage.
What do I notice as I look at them with your eyes of love?
What is their deep longing?
What is waiting to be born?

God, we ask for courage and wisdom to stand together at the crossroads and create space for
communion, so that something new may be born among us.

BEING HERE: Come as you are, in divine presence

Sit in a position that feels stable and comfortable. Let your breath slow and deepen and find its natural pace, with tensions flowing out as you exhale. Become aware of divine presence in you and around you.

Welcome this presence. What is your name for God in this moment?

Become aware of what you seek from God. Find a word or two to express it.

Combine your name for God and your deep longing into a few words. An example might be “inner freedom [your desire] in Holy Mystery” [your name for God]. Allow God to inhabit this prayer.

(30-40 MINUTES OF SILENCE)

INTENTION

O God, with the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, we are heartbroken by the myriad ways our one human family and Earth, our common home, suffer from disconnection, indifference, violence, and fear in the face of racism, migration, and climate crisis. You love all of creation into being. We pray that we will create communion and examine root causes of injustice, looking especially at how the roots of these tragedies intersect.

At a long-ago crossroads, Abraham and Sarah welcomed strangers to their tent, and new life was born. At the crossroads where we are now, we experience a new way of life in solidarity with Catholic sisters. This week we especially pray to share in their (*week of March 8:*) work for migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers throughout the world, and especially those who seek hope in our country. (Over 1,000 sisters volunteered at the US-Mexico border in 2019.)

For what else shall we pray?.... (After each prayer:) Hear our prayer, O God.

We thank you, God, that “It is not ours to see the future. Our task is not to create a plan for the new to emerge. It is to create a space for the new to emerge. For the young. For the growing diversities. A space where the Holy Spirit is free to work. If we can do this, the future will emerge. And it will be good.” (*Sr. Sharlet Wagner, 2019 LCWR Assembly*) And so we pray: 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

As we have gathered in silence and in distant places, let us now go forth in peace: in communion with each other and offering communion to a hungry world.

Addendum:

(week 1) ...commitment to creative nonviolence. (Sisters choose this response as a way of being, and as a public stance in their responses in public conflicts, and in leadership of organizations like Pax Christi.)

(week 2) ...work for migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers throughout the world, and especially those who seek hope in our country. (Over 1,000 sisters volunteered at the US-Mexico border in 2019.)

(week 3) ...creative, collaborative work to end human trafficking. (The group Sisters Against Human Trafficking has catalyzed action by major US industries to examine their practices.)

(week 4) ...commitment to be a voice for the voiceless and to mend the gaps between wealthy people and impoverished people in the USA. (NETWORK, the Catholic social justice lobby founded by Catholic sisters in 1971, advocates for these needs.)

(week 5) ... care for creation and active generation of climate solutions. (Catholic sisters were pioneers in Earth action and continue to advocate, innovate, and work for systemic change.)

(week 6) ...commitment to root out racism and remove barriers to create a welcoming spirit for all. (US sisters' congregations are looking at racism in their own histories and in themselves. New Ways Ministries, co-founded by a Catholic sister in 1975, advocates for the LGBTQ community).