



March 21, 2024

Dear Sisters of LCWR Region IX,

As you receive this letter, we are quickly approaching Palm Sunday and Holy Week. May these days be filled with quiet moments to reflect on the mysteries of God's love. I heard a homily many years ago from Fr. Ed Foley, OFM Cap in Chicago. He described Good Friday as the birth of the church, when there was "a volcanic eruption of God's love". I have never forgotten that phrase and the challenge it brings to my life. May you experience that kind of love this season. We will meet at the Jesuit Retreat House in Oshkosh on Monday, April 22, and conclude on April 24. As usual, we begin at noon on Monday and end at noon on Wednesday. Please remember lunch is on your own for both days. You will notice on the registration sheet the cost for this event has increased. All retreat centers need to increase their costs due to employee salaries increasing, food cost increases, utility cost increases, plus increases for facility upgrades. You get my point. If your financial situation prevents you from attending, please contact Sister Rose Jochmann for assistance. Your presence is most important to us.

To streamline our time together we will continue to incorporate the Consent Agenda procedure. This process allows us to group routine items together and approve of them without discussion. We would use this option primarily for approval of minutes and reports. It does require each of us to read them carefully prior to our gathering. The time we save will give us the opportunity to spend more time getting to know each other better, deepen our relationships, and get through the National agenda items.

Our main speakers will be Julia Walsh, FSPA and Lisa Kane, OP. They will share with us their perspective of the future of religious life as well as engage us in meaningful conversations. There will be materials from the national office, and the executive committee, which are not in our hands at this writing. Those materials typically come after the regional leaders' meeting in February. All materials and a more detailed agenda will be sent out closer to our time together. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful event and return your registration by April 5.

Blessings and Peace to each of you.

Mary Kay Brooks, SSND