LCWR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AWARD
AND SELECTION PROCESS

PURPOSE OF THE AWARD

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious has established the LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award (OLA) to recognize and honor persons who have significantly contributed to the ministry of leadership and who reflect the LCWR Mission. For the present time, recognition will be given to an individual woman religious.

RATIONALE

- To thank leaders for their service and for the impact they have had on religious life.
- To affirm the significance of collaborative leadership.
- To inspire LCWR members and our partners in our own call to the ministry of leadership.
- To lift up the value of religious life in our Church and our world today.

THE MISSION OF LCWR

The purpose of the Conference shall be to promote a developing understanding and living of religious life by:

- Assisting its members personally and communally to carry out more collaboratively their service of leadership in order to accomplish further the mission of Christ in today's world.

- Fostering dialogue and collaboration among religious congregations within the Church and in the larger society.

- Developing models for initiating and strengthening relationships with those concerned with the needs of society, thereby maximizing the potential of the Conference for effecting change.

CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD

The person must have significantly contributed to the ministry of leadership in a manner that reflects the mission of LCWR. The potential recipient evidences:

- Commitment and collaboration in the ministry of leadership.
- Faithfulness to Gospel values and mission.
- Creative and innovative leadership in one or more areas.
- Significant contributions as a leader on the national and/or international level, particularly to congregations of women religious.
- Deep listening, authenticity and responsiveness to the Spirit.

PROCESS

1. **OLA Committee Initiates the Process**

   Early in the calendar year, the LCWR Awards Committee will invite the LCWR membership, either as individuals, regions or leadership teams, to identify women religious who have given visibility to the LCWR mission and who meet the established criteria for the Leadership Award to submit their names as nominees for the award. Once the nomination process is completed, the LCWR Awards Committee will engage in a contemplative process and prepare a slate of nominees and description of each nominee for review by the LCWR National Board.

2. **Regional Recommendation of Potential Recipient/s**

   In preparation for and in advance of a contemplative process at the region meetings, the LCWR Awards Committee will distribute to LCWR members through their regions a descriptive list of potential recipients. The process will include the opportunity to suggest additional names.

   Region members will discern together and come to consensus on *one to three* potential recipients. The regional chairs will submit the names to the LCWR Awards Committee.

3. **Presentation of Names and Biographies to the LCWR Awards Committee**

   Using the names and information provided by the regions, the LCWR Awards Committee will discern and submit no more than three recommendations and rationale in order of preference to the LCWR National Board.

4. **National Board Enters into Final Discernment**

   Using a contemplative process, the board will consider the recommendations and the rationale and name the recipient of the Outstanding Leadership Award.

5. **Notification of Selection**

   The individual chosen for the Outstanding Leadership Award will be contacted by the executive director and informed that she has been selected to receive the award.

Past awardees

Mary Luke Tobin, SL; Theresa Kane, RSM; Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN; Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ; Joan Chittister, OSB; Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Sharon Holland, IHM; Margaret Brennan, IHM; Carol Keehan, DC; Sandra Schneiders IHM; Patricia Farrell, OSF; Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ; Janet Mock, CSJ; and Janice Bader, CPPS, Constance Fitzgerald, OCD, Anita Baird, DHM, Norma Pimentel, MJ, Patricia Chappell, SND