

LCWR Region 9

Legislative Network Report

Fall 2020

ACTIONS BY LCWR 9 LEADERS REQUESTED:

LCWR 9 Legislative Network Proposal Related to WRC “Social Justice” Collaboration
Please see Proposal – separate document. Discussion/amendment/approval requested.

Earth Day – Apr 22, 2021

ACTION: At the fall 2019 LCWR 9 meeting, members agreed that beginning with Earth Day 2019, religious congregations in Wisconsin will observe annually a period of “contemplative mindfulness” inspired by the principles of *Laudato Si*. The LCWR Region 9 Legislative Network (Leg-Net) will provide promotional reminders to save the date and a common prayer resource for all religious congregations in LCWR 9. All are requested to use it on **Earth Day or during that week**. Please watch for the prayer resource in mid-March and share it with the person who will facilitate this observance in your congregation. All LCWR 9 women religious are encouraged to observe this day in solidarity.

Representative at Network Meetings

ACTION: Leadership of each congregation will continue to encourage their representative to Leg-Net to participate in semi-annual meetings. Participation has improved. Joining by Zoom will also be a possibility. **Next meeting: Nov. 9, 2020; Madison WI.**

SUMMARY OF Legislative Network FOCUS AND ACTIVITY:

- Congregations/provinces based in Wisconsin have more than 2,000 members. Although not all these live in Wisconsin, the Leg-Net can work to engage more than 1,000 Catholic Sisters in the state. The unique niche of this group has been legislation affecting social justice issues in Wisconsin. Four members of LCWR 9 are members of the Legislative Network: Rose Jochmann OSF, Ellen Sinclair SDS, Kathy Slesar OP, and Toni Harris OP.
- Since the last LCWR 9 meeting (October 2019), the Legislative Network met by Zoom on March 30, 2020, and Sept 28, 2020.
- Actions and Issues:
 - Planned witnessing in connection with Democratic Convention in Milwaukee became moot issue.
 - Wisconsin Legislature not in session; no specific legislation being monitored.
 - Leg-Net provided prayer resource for Earth Day 2020 as planned.
 - In response to August 2020 violence in Kenosha, Leg-Net organized, developed, and distributed video, “Wisconsin Catholic Sisters Call for Peace!”
<https://animoto.com/play/uEhX5YdZkFPf2l67Fuo6Tw>
 - Prepared proposal for consideration by LCWR9 regarding collaboration with WRC “Social Justice” focus.
 - **POST NOV ELECTION:** The Leg-Net plans to meet on Nov 9, 2020, to explore ways to respond to implications of US General Election and potential civil unrest.

(Submitted by Toni Harris OP – October 2020)