

Conclusion

Do we believe that our congregations are exactly where God wants them to be at this time?

That religious life is exactly where it is meant to be at this time?

We make a mistake when we attempt to do the impossible of trying to live forever and fail to fully embrace the now.

It is not ours to see the future of religious life, nor is it ours to direct the future of religious life.

*We can thank God that our task as elected leaders is not to create a plan for the new to emerge;
it is to create a space for the new to emerge.*

-- Sharlet Wagner, CSC

The ending is a beginning. Here are some ponderings, learnings, and questions as we stay faithful to what is emerging in religious life.

- Denial of where any of us are on the continuum of life will impede our ability to live in the present and move into the future.
- Movements are part of the future of religious life, as other men and women become the leaders and carriers of our charisms in a variety of ministries.
- The five orientations are not new to us. These are values we already espouse, helpful guideposts as we take each emerging step. We commit to growing our capacities in these areas.
- If we remain focused only on our individual congregations, we do a tremendous disservice to religious life. We are a global sisterhood.
- As elected leaders, we must allow newer members to shape the future in ways that diverge from our known ways of being and doing.
- The intergenerational, intercultural, and global aspects of religious life will continue to influence and shape us as we move into the future.
- Connectivity, web-searching, and web-weaving will be ways of influencing and being influenced in mission and in religious life.
- We are called to be a healing presence in the world and bring our voice and moral authority to the critical issues of our day.

What border, threshold, liminal place am I called to cross as a leader?
What border, threshold, liminal space is calling my community?
What border, threshold, liminal place are we called to as an LCWR region?
The LCWR board? The LCWR national staff?

