

## LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award Nominees Summary for Attendees at Fall 2023 Region Meetings

Note: The following is a copy of the information presented on Power Point for referral during small group discussion.

### Purpose of the Outstanding Leadership 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.
- Thank leaders for their service and for the impact they have had on religious life.
- Affirm the significance of collaborative leadership.
- Inspire LCWR members and our partners in our own call to the ministry of leadership.
- 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.

- Deep listening, authenticity, and responsiveness to the Spirit.
- Significant contributions as a leader on a national and/or international level, particularly to congregations of women religious.

## Summary of Nominees for the 2024 Outstanding Leadership Award (in alphabetical order)

Marcia Allen, CSJ

Sisters of Saint Joseph of Concordia, KS

- Facilitator, retreat director and consultant to communities of women religious in the United States, Canada, India, Japan, and Brazil.
- Since 1995 has served on the staff of the Manna House of Prayer leading retreats, designing programs, and providing spiritual direction.
- Has designed and led retreats and workshops for leaders of women's and men's communities as well as for team leaders and staff of various lay groups.
- Vice President (1979-1995) and President of her congregation (2008 – 2016)
- LCWR Presidency (2014-2017)

Region nominations noted: "An LCWR president who challenged us to clearly discern the future of religious life and changes within LCWR."

Nancy Schreck, OSF

Sisters of Saint Francis, Dubuque, IA

- Founder, developer and current program director of Excel, Inc., a nonprofit service agency in Okolona, Mississippi, which promotes education, welfare and community involvement for adults and children.
- Has worked extensively with congregations on ecology and social justice issues and presented widely on scripture and on religious life.
- Serves on the leadership council of the Franciscan Handmaids of Mary in Harlem, NY.
- Vice-president (1992 – 2000) and president (2008 – 2014) of her congregation.
- LCWR Presidency (1994 – 1996).

Region nominations noted: "Leadership at a critical time in LCWR." "Walks the walk of service to and with the poor." "Speaking words of vision and hope for our time."

Nancy Sylvester, IHM

Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Monroe, MI

- Founded the Institute for Communal Contemplation and Dialogue (ICCD). The institute organizes people of faith to reflect, analyze and act on critical issues of church and society through a process of contemplation and dialogue.
- Author and speaker who has lectured widely on a variety of topics including contemplation, transformation of consciousness, and living in a time of chaos.
- Has served numerous congregations by designing processes to deepen both individual and congregational commitments to contemplation, and to invite deepening conversations on the issues facing them.
- Vice president of her community (1994 - 2000).
- LCWR Presidency (1999 – 2001).

Region nominations noted: "Work with contemplative dialogue and engaging impasse." "Commitment to the transformation of leadership of women religious." "Her long work in transformation of consciousness."