

Declaration of Commitment

June 25, 2026

Song for Gathering

Veni Sancte Spiritus

Opening Prayer

Spirit of Life,

Be with us as we gather to proclaim our Declaration of Commitment to be instruments of your action, compassion, forgiveness, mercy and love.

We ask you to

open our hearts that we might know how you ask us to respond in this time,

open our hands that we might join with others for the sake of those most in need,

open our minds that we might see and understand the forces of harm we encounter

open our spirits that we might resist the temptation to fear and choose the confidence you give

open our desire that we might make your desire our own.

Be with us as we speak the words you have given to us and respond as one united LCWR community.

From the LCWR Call

Reader: “We... are living the gospel call at a critical juncture in human history. Aware that the world’s future depends upon the decisions that are made in the next few years, we embrace our responsibility to make choices that support the good of all life on this planet.

We commit ourselves to:

- Engage in practices and processes that foster the needed evolution of consciousness that will assure that all life on Earth has a future.
- Integrate the work of justice into every aspect of our lives and ministries and use our collective voice and moral authority to effect systemic change. We place particular emphasis on the urgent work to dismantle racism in society, our religious institutes, and ourselves.”

Reading of the LCWR Declaration of Commitment

Reader: In preparation for the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious has entered a period of reflection on nearly 300 years of our presence, service, and leadership in the United States.

Reader: In a spirit of prayer, discernment, and fidelity to the values that inspired women religious, beginning in 1727, to respond to the humanitarian needs of those they encountered in the United States, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious makes this Declaration of Commitment.

Readers (alternate): We, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, affirm our commitment to:

- Upholding the inherent right to life of every human being and the dignity of each person
- Embracing the gospel call to love, welcome, and care for all people, especially those who are most vulnerable
- Welcoming immigrants and providing care and assistance to all who reside in our nation, while advocating for comprehensive immigration reform
- Standing against violence in all its forms
- Dismantling racism in all its manifestations
- Caring for our common home, Earth, through attentive stewardship and decisive action
- Respecting and supporting every person’s journey toward the fullness of their humanity
- Working to alleviate poverty in all its forms
- Exercising the responsibility to vote and advocating for the protection of this opportunity for others
- Promoting dialogue, negotiation, and mutual understanding as the path to lasting peace, rather than the use of force and the destruction of life

Readers (alternate): As bearers of hope:

- We commit ourselves to living compassion, communion, and nonviolence as members of one global community.

- We remain steadfast in our belief in the inherent right to life of every human being and the dignity of each person.
- We proclaim the urgent necessity of nonviolence in both word and action.
- We embrace our responsibility to make choices that support the good of all life on this planet.
- We pledge to live our call to be courageous witnesses of love — refusing to surrender our moral authority or succumb to despair.

Reader: We make this Declaration of Commitment in light of our vocation as Catholic Sisters: to be women of God living amid the profound challenges of our world, fearless in embracing and embodying the priorities of the Gospel

Three minutes of silence

Prayers of Heart and Commitment

Readers Alternate:

We bring into our presence the most vulnerable, unseen, alone and “othered” as we ask our God of compassion, mercy and love to awaken our hearts that instead of looking away, we respond.

Our Response Today will be: Open our Hearts

Earth, in need of healing with decisive action to restore what has been destroyed...

Open Our Hearts

Those who are detained and separated without due process or just representation...

Open Our Hearts

All who depart their homeland this day escaping fear and seeking safety...

Open Our Hearts

Women, children and men whose human dignity is disrespected this day....

Open Our Hearts

Our complicity in the systemic racism that continues to bring harm

Open Our Hearts

Responsibility for exercising our right to vote and advocating for the same for others

Open Our Hearts

With open hearts, we commit ourselves to making choices to alleviate poverty, stop violence in all its forms and be those who bring healing, hope and repair as we witness to Gospel love.

Closing Prayer (ALL)

We stand together.
We walk together.
We listen together.
We hope together.
We create together.
Together, we believe.

Closing Song

This Land Is Your Land

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me.

As I was walking that ribbon of highway
I saw above me that endless skyway
I saw below me that golden valley
This land was made for you and me.

I roamed and I rambled and I followed my footsteps
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts
While all around me a voice was sounding
This land was made for you and me.

When the sun came shining, and I was strolling
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling
A voice was chanting, As the fog was lifting,
This land was made for you and me.

This land is your land, this land is my land
From California to the New York Island
From the Redwood Forest to the Gulf Stream waters
This land was made for you and me