



## **NewsNotes**

### **December 2023**

---

Advent is a time for hope and God knows we need some right about now. Despite how many things there are to read below, or perhaps because of them, I see hope in the words and stories below. So many of them tell of people being active in trying to bring the Reign of God closer to a reality we can touch and feel, despite how difficult it is against forces driven by those who would divide us for their own gain. We are all offered opportunities to do something to get involved, to make a change and perhaps to invite others to join us who also seek a better set of relationships, and perhaps a better world.

As a justice promoter for a women's congregation, I am involved in what LCWR sees as a major transition in the role of women religious. Many years ago, sisters moved from convents to the streets to serve the needs of various people. Hospitals and schools were founded. Later, congregations realized that their service was required because there were systemic injustices that needed correcting. They began to focus on systemic change guided by Catholic social teaching. Fifty years ago, NETWORK was founded as a new "political" ministry for women religious.

Today, we are being asked to focus more on changing consciousness, beginning with our own. Monday is the next step for us with a second two-hour workshop building on what we learned last April in St. Louis. We are in the beginning of a journey of transforming grace. After Monday, we'll have one more two-hour workshop before convening again in April for a weekend of work together. We hope to be a more effective way to touch hearts and minds. Trainings will continue throughout 2024.

Whether we are engaged in a COP meeting, opposing nuclear weapons, or just looking forward to some inspiration and hope this advent, perhaps you will find

this prayer sent to those of us on our Journey to transforming consciousness helpful.

God of the new venture, we are walking into mystery. We face the future not knowing what the days and months will bring us or how we will respond. Be love in us as we journey. May we welcome all who come our way.

Have a blessed and hope-filled Advent and a Sacred Christmas!

Peace and all good,

**Frank**

Frank McCann  
Peace through Justice Facilitator  
Congregation's NGO Representative to the UN  
Laudato Si' Action Platform Coordinator

---



---

COP 28 through the lens of Laudate Deum