



## A Focus of Love and Transformation

The title of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s last book, *Where Do We Go from Here: Chaos or Community*, poses a question that is as relevant in 2024 as it was in 1967.

As we work for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, we continue to look at choosing to build community over encouraging chaos. This year, in collaboration with many congregations, and in conjunction with LCWR, we will focus on transforming grace.

Transforming Grace is a process that will lead us to discern, “What is ours to do in this time?” Through an approach of contemplation and discussion, we will work toward decisions and actions that lead to right relationships with each other and all of creation.

LCWR is inviting each congregation’s provincial leader, communicator and justice director to engage in a collective discernment about our role in transforming our hearts, our communities and our world.

At the end of April, Sr. Margaret Gorman, Carrie Higginbotham, Katie Drager and Ann Clark will gather in Pittsburgh to begin the planning of engagement in learning and sharing the skills of this process.

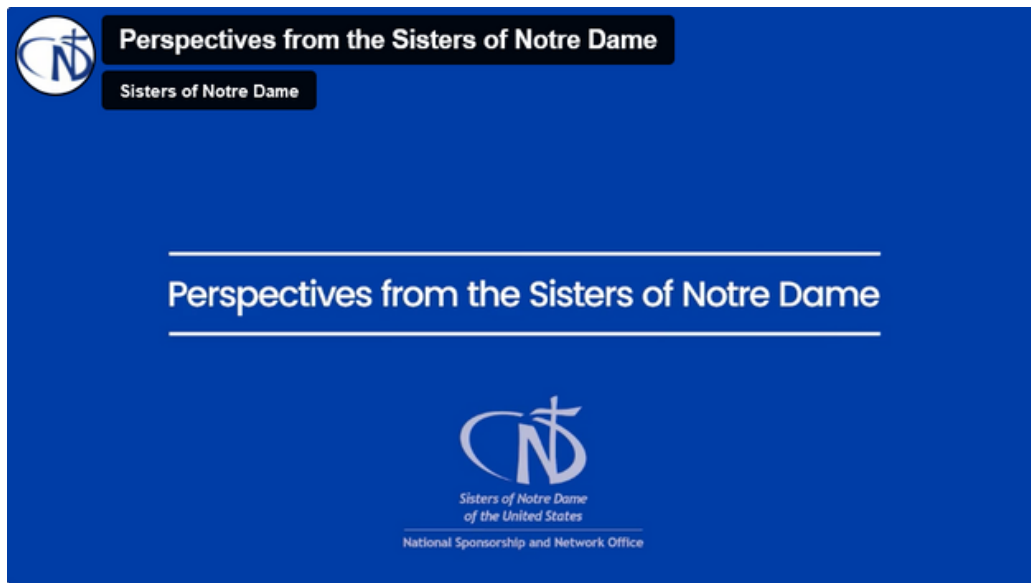
At this time, it is very easy to be swept up in the negativity and divisiveness of the world. We are choosing to help one another focus on the progress we have made individually and collectively and to allow the grace we share to transform the country.

Look for more about this process of hope throughout the year. [Visit the Transforming Grace website.](#)

The National Sponsorship and Network Office (NSNO) and the JPIC office collaborated to produce a video exemplifying the rich Catholic Social Tradition that is integral to SND mission and ministry. Stories that the sisters share in the video highlight the lived examples of the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching at work in our world. Special thanks to Laura Koehl, executive director of NSNO for her contributions and support of this project.

The video was launched in celebration of Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14.

You can view the video below.



Picture submitted by Sr. Susan Kusz, SND, member of the SND Adoption of Sustainable Lifestyles subcommittee.

**Grant me the ability to be alone,  
May it be my custom to go outdoors each day  
among the trees and grasses,  
among all growing things  
and there may I be alone,  
and enter into prayer  
to talk with the one  
that I belong to.  
--Rabbi Nachman of Bratzlav**

**For reflection:**

**Does nature invite you to prayer?**

**How can we help preserve “trees, grasses and all growing things” for future generations?**

**How can we make nature’s beauty more accessible to neighborhoods that lack it?**

Prayer and reflection questions submitted by Sr. Maryann Weber, SND, member of the SND Ecological Spirituality subcommittee.



House of Hospitality is always looking for volunteers to come to Laredo, TX to work at La Frontera Respite Center for Migrants.

In mid-March, Srs. Margaret Hartman, SND and Donna Paluf, SND (from left) spent time making meals and sorting clothes, among other things!

To volunteer or learn more, contact Ann Clark at [aclark@sndusa.org](mailto:aclark@sndusa.org).



**The heavens declare the glory  
of the Creator;  
the firmament proclaims  
the handiwork of Love.**

**Psalm 19**

*Psalms for Praying* by Nan C. Merrill

April 8 is the Feast of the Annunciation and this year it is also the day of the Total Solar Eclipse across North America. To learn more about this phenomenon and see the path of the eclipse, visit [NASA's webpage](#). And remember, if you look at the sky during the eclipse you MUST have specialized protective eye wear. Sunglasses, cameras, binoculars and telescopes without specialized solar filters are NOT sufficient.

