

**Translation of Greeting for the 2021 LCWR Assembly from the
Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life
and Societies of Apostolic Life**

Vatican, July 2, 2021

Prot. N. SpR 2616/2021

Dear Sister Carol Zinn:

I send greetings to you, all the participants in the Virtual Assembly of this *Leadership Conference of Women Religious* organized for this year 2021 (August 11-13).

I also extend the greetings of Archbishop José Rodríguez Carballo, Secretary of this Dicastery, and of the nearly 40 members – consecrated men and women and laity – who work here, expressing Pope Francis' request for this specific presence and mission in the Church and throughout the world.

As Prefect, I have reflected on the call to synodality. Pope Francis is inviting the entire Church to a spirit of synodality, in which all collaborate in the search for their role to promote the growth of the Kingdom of God. Synodality is a *modus vivendi et operandi* that involves active participation of the People of God in the common mission of evangelization. "The road of synodality is the road that God expects of the Church in the third millennium," because the world in which we live "demands of the Church consolidation of the synergies in all areas of her mission" (Francis, Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Institution of the Synod of Bishops, October 17, 2015).

It is also appropriate for us, the consecrated, who are at the heart of the Church, to follow this road, in which "the fraternal spiritual relationship and mutual collaboration between diverse Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life" (*Vita Consecrata*, 52) express a profound sense of the Church, which flows from the lifeblood of the only Vine.

"The road of the Church is this: to meet, to join, to listen, to discuss, to pray and to decide" (*Homily* of Pope Francis at Santa Marta, April 28, 2016). Within this context, my wish for you is to abandon yourselves to the fire and the wind of the Spirit, creator of the community. In Him I bless you.

Cardinal João Braz de Aviz
Prefect

SR. CAROL ZINN
Executive Director
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910
USA

