



**MONTHLY MEMO**  
August 2021

August brought the **launch of Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited**: an event we had to hold on Zoom rather than in person. Nevertheless it was a very moving event, a ritual created by Judith Lawson op -with much appreciated creative and technical assistance from Toula Andrianopoulos-with participation by so many of EFCL's present and future supporters. Gathered on Zoom were the eight leaders of the religious institutes which are the members of the new company; the seven member representatives; the eight Directors of the new Board; the leaders of our nine religious institute service partners; the members of the Transition Committee and the Governance and Finance Working Parties who have now finished their service to EFCL; Peter Carroll fms, President of CRA; and the EFCL team members. We were fortunate to have Sean d'Mello from Cactus Productions operate and edit the Zoom for us so, now, we can offer a link for all religious to view the ritual: <https://youtu.be/M8e32q3yiyA> We do hope that you will take the time to watch the video and learn more about the past and the future of Emerging Futures Collaborative Limited.

On Friday August 6 EFCL held an induction event for the Member Representatives and the new Board Directors. Again, we had hoped this might be in person, but Zoom enabled us to gather and reflect and pray together, to discuss Ted Dunn's paper *Seeing with New Eyes: The Inner Work of Transformation Needed for These Times* (LCWR Occasional Papers Winter 2021) and to learn more about the spiritual and conceptual framework, the mission, the purpose and the structure, service and approach of EFCL. We are grateful that our Member Representatives and Board Directors were willing to set aside a day for this important work.

Following the induction day, the Board Directors held their inaugural meeting to set in place the formal framework for the operation of the Board in the future. The next meeting of the Board will be on September 24.

During the second week of August, Tuesday to Saturday, I attended the virtual **LCWR Assembly *The Realm of Transformation: Creating Space for the Future*** beginning at our 2am. 1000 participants attended and enjoyed presentations, table discussions, prayer and evening discussion sessions. The Presidential Address of Elise Garcia op, *Creating Space for the Future: Cutting Deeper Grooves of Transforming Love into Evolution*, asked and answered the question "how do we carve deeper grooves of conscious relationality in evolution –for our own liberation and the liberation of others?" While Elise spoke of the American experience, I don't think we have to look far to see many of the same issues in our Australian culture.

The keynote address *Creating Space for the Future* was given by Mercedes L. Casas Sánchez FSpS and she spoke of the many ways in which religious can create space for the future of mission through collaboration and creativity, of community life, of hope, of revisiting the signs.

*On the final day, the conference continued its work on the national discernment on the emerging future of religious life which seeks to assist religious institutes to explore how they may collaborate to find new ways of supporting religious life in the future as demographics rapidly shift.*

The table discussions were lively and enriching as was the daily prayer. I'd recommend having a look at the Assembly material posted on the website: [www.lcwr.org](http://www.lcwr.org) Assemblies/Previous Assemblies/2021: you will find the two addresses I mentioned above as well as a short video and a summary of the Assembly.

As well as attending this international conference, I regularly talk with the Executive Directors of LCWR (Leadership Conference of Women Religious) in the US; CRC (Canadian Religious Conference); CRS (Canadian Religious Stewards) and UISG (International Union Superiors General) in Rome. Every part of the world is experiencing the same issues that we are facing in Australia and we meet separately and together in order to work to find new paths to work with CICALSAL and with each other.

We continue to work with our nine service partners: Presentation Sisters, Tasmania -who have just sent their petition for a canonical delegate to Rome; Missionary Sisters of Service; Brothers of St John of God; Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny; Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus; Presentation Sisters, Wagga Wagga; Sisters of Mercy, Parramatta; Missionary Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception and Presentation Sisters, Queensland. We are in preliminary discussions with another three congregations, which we expect to become service partners in the very near future.

As a way to keep you in the loop about what is happening with our service partners, we have planned a **Zoom event for Monday November 8 from 11.30am-1.00pm**. The time slot is to allow for congregational members from other states to participate and not be disadvantaged by daylight savings times in NSW. Our initial planning has our first three service partner leaders -Gabrielle Morgan pbvm from Presentation Sisters Tasmania, Stancea Vichie mss from Missionary Sisters of Service (Victoria) and Timothy Graham oh from the Brothers of St John of God (NSW) sharing with you some of their experience in working the Emerging Futures Collaborative to secure the future of their congregational members. They will provide some input and then be available to address questions which we will seek from you in advance. We have found the sharing of experience -to date offered only to individual religious institutes- to be very informative and thought it would be a good idea to make it available to all leaders and leadership team members as well as all congregational members.

So, if you are interested in participating in the Zoom event on Monday November 8 please email me at [sharon.price@efcl.org.au](mailto:sharon.price@efcl.org.au) I will use your email address to send you an invitation to the Zoom meeting which will run from **11.30am-1.00pm** (NSW, ACT, Victoria and Tasmania), **10.30am-12.00pm** in Queensland, **11.00am- 12.30pm** in South Australia and **8.30am-10.00am** in Western Australia. If you have a question that you would like answered during the session, please send that to me as well.

Everyone is welcome: leaders and teams, congregational members! We'd love to see you online!

Sharon Price rsm  
Transition Manager  
August 30, 2021