



## ***Motto 2026***

***May the love, the mother love of God,  
come into us and replenish us  
with fullness, inflame us with its fire.***

***Spiritual Maternity***

Dear Sisters and Associates,

Throughout this past year we have prayed for peace and I encourage you to continue to hold that close to your heart, as the world is so desperately in need of peace. This year let us turn our gaze to another beautiful icon of Mary. The icon Vergine con il Bambino – Virgin with Child, which is venerated in St Mary Major Church Rome. This icon was a favourite of Pope Francis as we know and he visited her prior to and after all his major tours around the world. His simple tomb now rests near this icon.

Venerable Mary Potter in Spiritual Maternity encourages all of us to be mothers. We are not mothers according to the flesh, our maternity is a spiritual one. We are to be bearers of love, for love begets love. Let us be on fire with LOVE. It is said of Mary Potter she did one thing and that was she LOVED – God.

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Maureen Geary, OP at the LCWR Assembly 2024 asked "Given our reality, what is our call now? The question is not - what are we to DO now, but rather, who are we to BE?" Not fully knowing our future we can get anxious, however, I believe we are called to be instruments of peace, ambassadors of mercy, hope, compassion and LOVE. Mary Potter had no clarity or certainty about the future but what she did know was that our deep call is to BE LOVE. We are to love one another and all humanity. Just look at what unfolded through her vision and self surrender. The beautiful gift of our Charism for our world.

We are blessed to be guided by wonderful committed LCM women who have gone before us, to show us the way. These women, like us heard the call of the Holy Spirit stirring within their hearts and responded as Mary did "be it done to me according to thy word". We stand on their shoulders, and are now the bridge, that bears witness to the past, while called to recreate the future with courage, faith, hope and LOVE.

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How then shall we be? Let's be midwives of the living Gospel who birth Jesus through our contemplative presence, women who love unconditionally, trust deeply and walk the unknown road together with courage and hope. We may not always feel fearless or courageous, however with the companionship and support of one another we will live and preach the Gospel through our presence and continue to be pilgrims of hope, for our broken world. We are called to be the embodiment of LOVE and hope. This is what the world needs at this time in our history. Let us go forth on our mission of LOVE.

Let us continue as Sisters and Associates, on our LCM journey of unconditional love. Celebrating our special feast day for the Congregation, let's ask Mary to replenish our hearts with LOVE, may we be mothers after God's own heart for our world. As Consecrated Women and Associates let us be of good courage, full of hope and:

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As one in the heart of Mary,



On behalf of Congregational Leadership