



A Message from the Leadership Conference of Women Religious

LCWR is partnering with other faith leaders calling for all people to spend time during the weekend of May 29-31 to lament and mourn the 100,000 persons who will have died in the United States from COVID-19, and to pause at noon on June 1 to honor the deceased.

We ask you to consider inviting your own members and associates to participate in this effort through the following:

1. Mark the grim milestone on Sunday (Pentecost) in your own celebration of the Eucharist or common prayer and encourage others to do the same.
2. Contact your elected officials, mayors, governors, and members of Congress and ask them to designate Monday, June 1 a National Day of Mourning and Lament--remembering the dead with moments of silence, lowering of flags, interfaith vigils, and civic memorials.
3. Use social media and other communication platforms to post prayers and laments, names, photos, and tributes to those who have died of the coronavirus during the days leading up to June 1. #DayofMourning, #Lament100k

Our lament will also honor the hard truths we have learned during this pandemic: our suffering has been unequal. Elders, black and brown neighbors, native communities, refugees and immigrants have borne disproportionately the brunt of sickness and death. Our prayers for the healing of the nation must acknowledge the brokenness of our democracy and call us to repair the injustices this pandemic has revealed.

On Friday, with Ramadan finished, Muslims will remember the reception of the Quran. On Friday and Saturday, Jews will remember God's covenant as they celebrate Shavuot and read their yizkor (remembrance) prayers. On Sunday, Christians will celebrate Pentecost, when the first Christians were given courage through the reception of the Holy Spirit.

Together we will name, honor, lament, and offer our tributes to the lives, families, and communities of those who have died.

On Monday, June 1, at noon local time, all are encouraged to join the civic community and pause once more to remember those who have died. It will be appropriate for flags to be lowered and to observe moments of silence, prayer, reflection, and bell-ringing. This June 1 call to remember is being supported by the U.S. Conference of Mayors who represent over 1,400 mayors across the country.

As spiritual leaders we are called to help lead our congregations, communities, and country in this time of grief and lament in a way that will lead us forward more united as a country to address the very real challenges we face ahead. And we know that we can only do that together.

Thank you for considering participating in this act of solidarity.

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