Conference Description

Love Tenderly: Sacred Stories of Lesbian and Queer Religious is an anthology written by twenty-three vowed women religious who embrace their sexual identity as lesbian or queer. Queer? What is this new terminology emerging from gender studies? Several authors of the book will discuss their sexual/gender identification and the impact of this anthology for themselves and their communities. Participants will explore the meaning of queer, transgender, intersex, other gender identifications, and the facets of a person’s psychosexual-spiritual journey.

Conference Registration Information

$249 registration fee includes overnight accommodations on Friday and Saturday, meals from Friday supper through Sunday lunch, and snacks.

Pre-Conference Retreat Day for Lesbian/Queer Sisters

This retreat day, Friday, March 18, 2022, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, is an open and safe space to listen, share, and pray. Arrival and overnight Thursday, March 17, plus Friday breakfast and lunch: $100 in addition to conference fee. With no overnight or Friday breakfast, with only Friday lunch: $50 in addition to conference fee.

Conference Schedule

Friday, March 18, 2022

4:30 pm Arrival and check-in
5:30 pm Dinner
6:30 pm Welcome & Introductions
Fran Fasolka, IHM - Being Together
8:00 pm Evening Prayer
8:30 pm Social

Saturday, March 19, 2022

8:00 am Breakfast
9:00 am Morning Prayer
9:30 am Diana Rawlings, ASC - Who Is This GenderBread Person?
10:00 am Table Talk
10:30 am Sue Becker, RDC - Coming Home
11:00 am Table Talk
11:30 am Break
12:00 pm Lunch
1:30 pm Julie Brown, RSM - Becoming Authentic to Myself
2:00 pm Table Talk
2:30 pm Break
2:45 pm Jeanne Christensen, RSM - As my Story Evolves
3:15 pm Table Talk
3:45 pm Large Group Discussion
4:15 pm Free Time
5:30 pm Supper
6:30 pm Evening Prayer
7:00 pm Film: Gender Revolution: A Journey with Katie Couric
8:30 pm Social

Speakers

Susan Becker is a 60-year member of the Sisters of the Divine Compassion, White Plains, NY. Sue is a clinical social worker in private practice and serves as the Interfaith Chaplain at Pace University Pleasantville, NY. Since September 2020, she has been in congregational leadership.

Julie Brown has been a Sister of Mercy for more than 40 years and is a Sister Life Minister within her community. Julie identifies as non-binary/queer and is a strong advocate for those who are marginalized within the Roman Catholic Church.

Jeanne Christensen serves as the Justice Advocate against Human Trafficking for the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas and is a founding member of the Board of U.S. Catholic Sisters Against Human Trafficking. Jean is a member of the Board of Directors of the College of St. Mary in Omaha, Nebraska.

Fran Fasolka entered the Scranton IHM Congregation in 1993 as an out lesbian. She began the “Lesters” listserv in the mid-90s as a safe place for lesbian sisters to connect with and encourage each other. Fran wishes to continue to support lesbian and queer sisters.

Diana Rawlings is a member of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ, U.S. Region. She has served her community in leadership and as vocation director. She is currently a member of the ASC Community Life Team and has participated in the Womanjourney retreats and conferences since 2001.
Lesbian and Queer Religious:
Our Sacred Stories Continue
A dialogue among lesbian/queer religious and members of congregations of women religious

Sunday, March 20, 2022

8:00 am  Breakfast
9:00 am  Eucharist with Dominican community
10:15 am  Discussion of Film
10:45 am  Impact on our Religious communities: What Can We Do?
11:15 am  Evaluation
11:30 am  Blessing and Sending Forth
12:00 noon  Lunch
1:00 pm  Departure

Scholarships
To apply, email info@NewWaysMinistry.org or write New Ways Ministry by March 1, 2022.

Cancellation Policy
Prior to March 1, all but $25 is refundable.

When Making Flight Plans…
We will try to provide transportation to/from the Milwaukee Airport, which is 30 minutes from Siena Retreat Center.

Please try to arrange flights as follows:
Arrive at airport by 4:00 pm on Friday, March 18
Depart after 3:00 pm on Sunday, March 20

Questions?
Call: 301-864-3604
Email: info@NewWaysMinistry.org
Write: New Ways Ministry
4012 29th Street
Mt. Rainier, MD 20712