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by NCR Staff

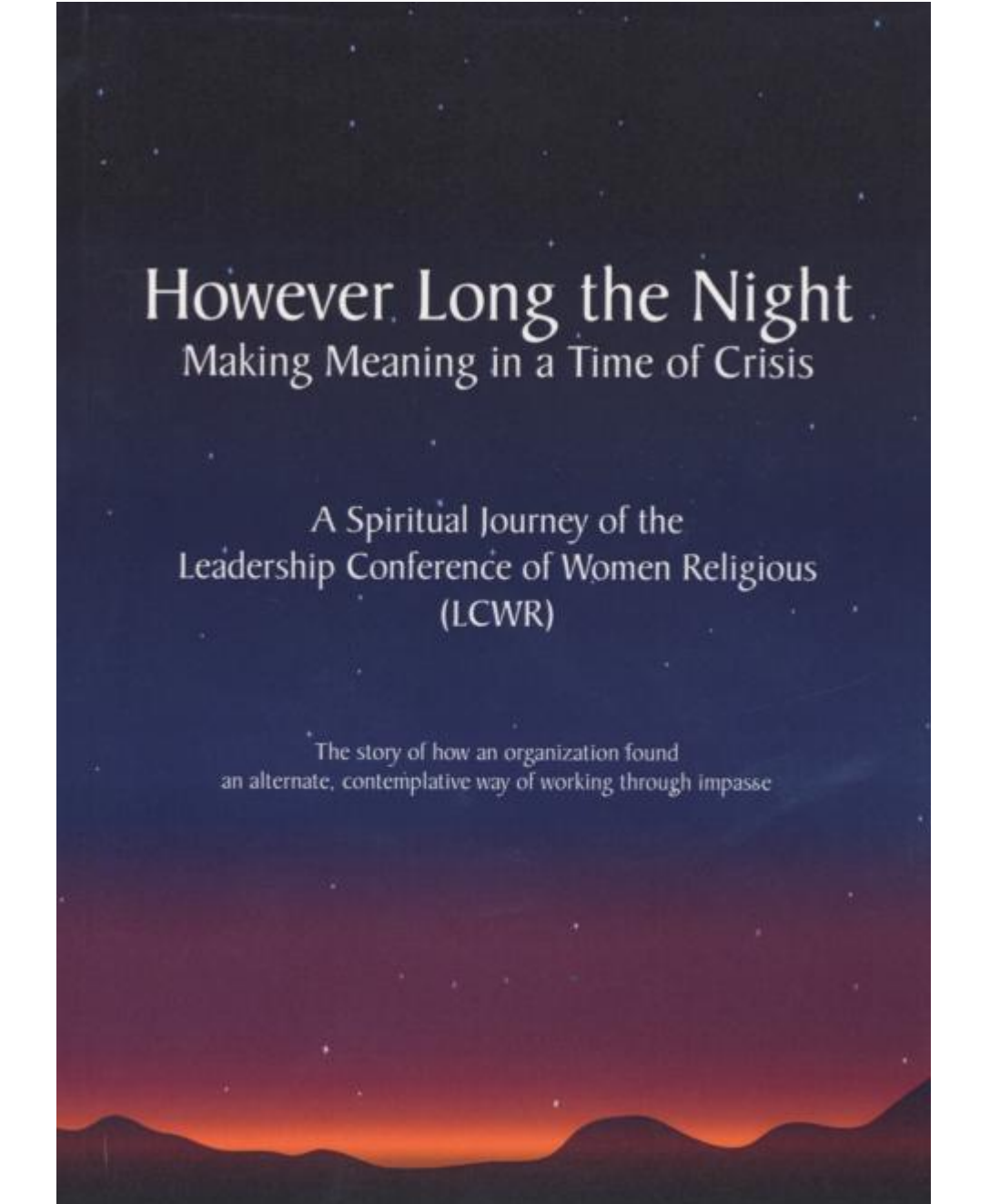
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April 27, 2018

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# However Long the Night

Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis

A Spiritual Journey of the  
Leadership Conference of Women Religious  
(LCWR)

The story of how an organization found  
an alternate, contemplative way of working through impasse

Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM

In 2009, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious came under the scrutiny of the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The members of LCWR lead about 80 percent of the congregations of Catholic sisters in the U.S. At the same time as the doctrinal assessment, the Vatican was separately conducting an [apostolic visitation](#) of certain congregations of women religious in the U.S.

In a newly released book, former presidents of LCWR, members of the organization's executive staff and members of a lay support group share their experiences and insights from this critical moment in their history.

### **On the show today:**

- Annmarie Sanders, an Immaculate Heart of Mary sister and communications director for LCWR
- Betty Thompson, \*a founding member of Solidarity with Sisters

### **Background Reading**

- Global Sisters Report's [Gail DeGeorge reported](#) on the release of *However Long the Night: Making Meaning in a Time of Crisis*.
- [A timeline of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith's investigation](#) of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.
- Going forward: [LCWR after the doctrinal assessment](#)
- April 2015: [Vatican ends controversial three-year oversight of US sisters' leaders](#)
- NCR's Tom Fox wrote in 2012 that [LCWR's response to the doctrinal assessment offers a new vision](#) for being church.
- April 2009: The Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith [has initiated a doctrinal investigation](#) of the largest U.S. women's religious leadership organization, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious.

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\*Betty Thompson was originally listed as a co-founder of Solidarity with Sisters. She is among the organization's founding members.

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