**Communal Contemplative Prayer**

**in solidarity with women religious – Dates, 20xx**

**Gathering**

Holy Mystery, Holy One beyond all names, you are always with us. Thank you.

We desire to make more space for you to move in us and in our world.

We desire to let go… and to let come… as we enter into the marvel of your love.

We feel your breath in our breath, flowing in…. and out…. carrying away everything except this moment. (Pause.) We settle into this time… here… together… in your Holy Mystery.

**“Every Craftsperson” by Rumi**

I’ve said before that every craftsperson
searches for what’s not there
to practice their craft.

A builder looks for the rotten hole
where the roof caved in. A water-carrier
picks the empty pot. A carpenter
stops at the house with no door.

Workers rush toward some hint
of emptiness, which they then
start to fill. Their hope, though,
is for emptiness, so don’t think
you must avoid it. It contains
what you need!

Dear soul, if you

 were not friends
with the vast

 nothing inside,
why would you

 always be

casting your net

 into it, and waiting

 so patiently?

**(30 minutes of silence)**

**(Sharing, as you wish)**

**CLOSING**

Grateful for silence together,

grateful for each other,

grateful for the Spirit who moves within us and among us,

grateful for women religious and others whose strength in Spirit is contagious…

We savor an inner emptiness that is close kin to inner fulness.

We rest in the Presence that holds us all.

We carry Presence into the empty spaces we encounter.

May it be so. Blessed be.

Image from <https://www.lionsroar.com/the-fullness-of-emptiness/>