Michael Leach and Loretto Sr. Jeannine Gramick (NCR screenshot/YouTube)

by Stephanie Yeagle

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For the second year, NCR is bringing our readers a four-part series of conversations on spirituality during the Lenten season.

[In the first conversation](#), Soul Seeing for Lent host Michael Leach speaks with Loretto Sr. Jeannine Gramick, co-founder of New Ways Ministry, about her ministry, her correspondence with Pope Francis and what she's doing this Lent.

Background reading:

- Pope Francis' letters are like the soothing hand of a friend who has reached out to heal my wounds and lead me out of a long and barren wasteland, [writes Gramick in her Soul Seeing for Lent column](#).

- [In two letters to New Ways Ministry last year](#), Francis commended the group for its outreach to the LGBTQ community and referred to co-founder Gramick as "a valiant woman" who had suffered much for her ministry.

- [St. Joseph Sr. Christine Schenk says](#) if we are to ever emerge from Catholic polarization, it will be through dialogue, respect for differences and the kind of nonviolent love practiced by New Ways Ministry and so many LGBTQ+ Catholics.

- Soul Seeing, which is edited by Leach, is a regular NCR column focused on spirituality and the "peace beyond all understanding." [You can read all Soul Seeing columns here](#).

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Soul Seeing for Lent conversations:

- March 21 — Jesuit Fr. Jim Martin, editor-at-large at America magazine

- April 4 — Nicole Symmonds, visiting professor at McAfee School of Theology

- April 18 — Franciscan Sr. Ilia Delio, the Josephine C. Connelly Endowed Chair in Theology at Villanova University

This story appears in the **Soul Seeing for Lent** feature series. [View the full series](#).