

## LCWR Delegation in Rome at Time of Pope John Paul II's Death and Burial

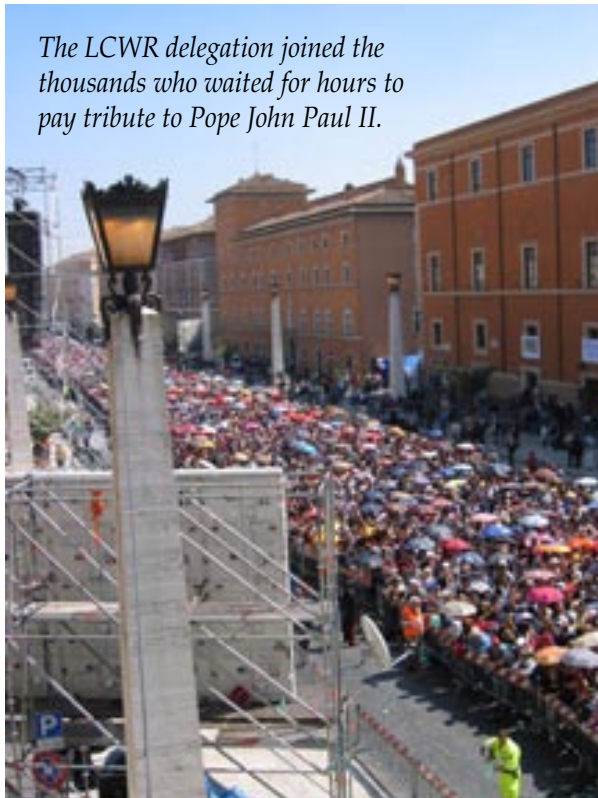
The LCWR presidency, Christine Vladimiroff, OSB; Beatrice Eichten, OSF; and Constance Phelps, SCL; and the LCWR executive director, Carole Shinnick, SSND traveled to Rome on April 1, arriving in time to join the thousands of people keeping vigil outside of the papal apartment at St. Peter's Square prior to the death of Pope John Paul II.

Although the delegation members had traveled to Rome for their annual visit to various Vatican offices, their trip provided the opportunity for them to be with the millions who gathered to pay tribute to the late pope and join in prayer for him and for the church.



*Outside of the papal apartment*

*The LCWR delegation joined the thousands who waited for hours to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II.*



Included on the LCWR website are photos from their trip which chronicle the experience of being in Rome at this historic moment for the church. (<http://www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/papal%20funeral.htm>)

Although some of the scheduled visits of the delegation were cancelled due to the pope's death, the four LCWR representatives were able to meet with some representatives from the Vatican offices. Accounts of these visits are on pages 3 and 4.

### Inside this issue:

- 3** LCWR and CMSM Justice and Peace Committees Hold Joint Meeting
- 6** LCWR Assembly Reminders
- 7** LCWR Finance Committee Provides Update to Members

*From the LCWR Presidency*  
**The Blessedness of the Ordinary**

by Beatrice Eichten, OSF -- LCWR Vice President

It is Wednesday and I am sitting in my room in Rome. Outside are the sounds of traffic and sirens and, I know without looking, that there are streams of people heading towards St. Peter's Square. Later on, I will wander through the streets to be part of the crowd of people coming to be part of this historic event of the death and burial of Pope John Paul II. The line waiting to view the body was very long last night – 20-deep, mashed together, down the street from St. Peter's Square for six blocks, around the block and all the way back. This morning, I understand it loops back and extends along another street! Young, old, with wheel chairs, canes and high heels, women and men of all nationalities and religions mix together – truly an experience of the universal church. Thousands of young people are here and many more are coming.



The Pope's death is a pilgrimage type of occasion for us, a time to step outside the ordinary and to be attentive to receive the Word of God enfleshed in this experience. We honor Pope John Paul II as a good man who was committed to the Church and the message of Jesus. We are challenged to open ourselves to realize that God is present and is among us in our gifted and limited humanity. Too often, we are blind to that reality, because it is "just" the daily routine, the regular people, the annoying events or people of each day, or we are too busy, or... We are called to remember that

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My sense is that these are people on pilgrimage, honoring an experience of a holy man who touched their lives, seeking an experience of the holy in their lives. The sheer number of people is mind boggling! An important element of our Vatican visits is figuring out how to get through the police checks and the crowds to the offices. The value of the meetings, while important, pales in comparison to the value of being here amid millions of people for this event.

Since arriving on Saturday, I have had the privilege of standing close by to watch the unfolding events of the Pope's illness, death and funeral. I am filled with interest, amazement and respect as I recognize this as an experience of the Word of God alive and active in our midst. How fitting that this is the post-Easter season, where we celebrate God-among-us, incarnated in the flesh, and then in and through the Spirit in the daily reality of our lives! The amazement we experience in this event is reflected in the amazement and enthusiasm of the early Christians as they entered into the pilgrimage of following Jesus the Christ and discovered the beauty and the challenge of communion with other believers.

today and every day, we are pilgrims and strangers, journeying together in the blessedness of the ordinary into the fullness of life and hope. Let us open our eyes and ears, our hands and hearts to the wonder of God-with-us, today and all days.



*Constance Phelps, SCL; Christine Vladimiroff, OSB; and Beatrice Eichten, OSF in Rome*

## LCWR Delegation Visits with Officials in Rome

**CICLSAL** LCWR visited with members of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. Because this was LCWR's first meeting with Archbishop Franc Rode, CM, the congregation prefect appointed in 2004, the delegation provided an orientation to LCWR. In addition to presenting materials on the conference's mission, history, membership and activities and providing samples of LCWR publications, the delegation discussed the LCWR Call 2004-2009, the 2004 and 2005 assemblies, and an update on efforts to assist member congregations to address allegations of sexual abuse and prevent further abuse. Discussion also took place on other topics including the restructuring of congregations, vocation promotion, and spirituality.



*Among the representatives from CICLSAL with whom the LCWR delegation met were: Archbishop Piergiorgio Silvano Nesti, CP; Archbishop Franc Rode, CM; and Enrica Rosanna, FMA*

*Christine Vladimiroff, OSB; Sharon Holland, IHM (CICLSAL staff member); Enrica Rosanna, FMA (CICLSAL undersecretary); Beatrice Eichten, OSE; Constance Phelps, SCL; and Carole Shinnick, SSND outside of the CICLSAL offices*



**UISG and USG** The LCWR and CMSM delegations met with International Union of Superiors General representatives Victoria Gz. de Castejón, RSCJ; Theresinha Joana Rasera, SDS; and Rosemary Howarth, SSND; and Union of Superiors General representatives José Maria Arnaiz, SM; and Joseph Tobin, CSSR. Discussion took place on the efforts all four groups are making to continue dialogue with the various offices of the Vatican.

UISG and USG spoke of the November 2004 congress on consecrated life, "A Passion for Christ -- A Passion for Humanity," as well as plans for follow-up to the congress. UISG also reported on plans for an upcoming Pan-African congress, the UISG assembly scheduled for November 2005 in Poland, and its work on various justice issues including trafficking and the situation in Sudan.

**Inter-Religious Dialogue** The LCWR and CMSM delegations met with the Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue which included brief reports from the two conferences, followed by a sharing of information from the representatives of the pontifical council: Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald, president; Msgr. Felix Machado, under-secretary; and Theresa Seow, fdcc, consultor. The council representatives spoke about the discipline, patience, study and prayer involved in inter-religious dialogue and the need to integrate inter-religious education into the formation of new members. The council is developing a document on the spirituality of inter-religious dialogue.



Representatives from Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue: Theresa Seow, fdcc and Archbishop Michael Fitzgerald



The LCWR delegation spent time with representatives from the USCCB and CMSM who were visiting Vatican offices at the same time. Pictured here are: (back row) Msgr. William P. Fay, USCCB general secretary; Carole Shinnick, SSND; and (front row) Constance Phelps, SCL; Christine Vladimiroff, OSB; Bishop William Skylstad, USCCB president; and Beatrice Eichten, OSF.

**Justice and Peace** LCWR met with two representatives of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace -- Msgr. Frank Dewayne, under-secretary; and Fr. Carlos Lara Lopez, staff member. Following a brief report and sharing of LCWR materials related to justice and peace activities, the council representatives shared about some of its activities. These include: working on issues relating to Africa; providing seminars on economic issues, debt reduction, and the Millennium Development Goals; and publication in several languages of a compendium of social justice teachings. The council suggested that US religious be attentive to the following issues: global crisis of water, border issues in the United States, trade issues and the implications of trade agreements, and the need for public advocates who make sure that the United States follows up on its pledges to other countries.



The streets of Rome were filled with thousands of informal street "shrines" where people left notes and mementoes honoring Pope John Paul II

## LCWR Represented at National Catholic Health Care Meetings

Meetings of the National Coalition on Catholic Health Care Ministry and Catholic Health Association board meetings occurred back-to-back in early April in Washington, DC. While five LCWR members represent the conference on the coalition, the associate director for social mission serves as staff for the coalition and liaison to CHA. The report on LCWR activities was favorably received by both groups.

In addition to reports from participating groups, the NCCHCM discussed its purpose and function, especially its distinction from the Advisory Council of the Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Health Care. The fall 2005 meeting will continue this discussion in a more purposeful way and set an agenda for the next two years.

In addition to reports of the officers and several committees, with Michael Rodgers reporting as interim president/CEO, the CHA board meeting included a report on CHA advocacy initiatives and the status of the search committee for a new president/CEO. One half-day was given to presentations by and exchange with two visitors: Congressman Jim McClery (R-LA), chair of the Social Security Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee, and Jack Meyer, PhD from the Economic and Social Research Institute providing an update on health care for the uninsured. CHA and other organizations have generated materials and activities for this year's "Cover the Uninsured Week," May 1-8.

## LCWR and CMSM Justice and Peace Committees Meet

During the last week in March, the LCWR and CMSM justice and peace groups held their annual joint meeting in Washington, DC, sharing prayer, reflection, activities, plans, and a delicious Middle Eastern meal. During the exchange of reports from each committee, along with a number of similarities, there were some notable differences in issues and approaches with mutual support and encouragement.

CMSM has done more work on Haiti, the Middle East, Colombia, and Cuba, while LCWR has more actively



*Members of the CMSM and LCWR justice committees: Stan DeBoe, OSST; Marie Lucey, OSF; Barbara Moore, CSS; Walter Maher, CCVI; Bill Quigley, CJMS; Gilmary Bauer, RSM; Peggy Nolan, BVM; Jim Stormes, SJ; and John Celichowski, OFMCap*

engaged fair trade issues, the environment, death penalty and nuclear weapons. Both committees and conferences have continued to work on debt cancellation, the Darfur crisis, and human trafficking. Activities evolving from the Joint Resolution on Responsible Engagement in the 2004 Election Process have included post-election reflection as well as response to presidential appointments which raise concerns. Attention has also been paid to items of concern in the proposed 2006 federal budget. There was discussion about the need for responsible Catholic involvement in the US political process and ability to more effectively speak about moral values across the spectrum. Both conferences have sponsored delegations on which there were reports: a fact-finding visit to Haiti (CMSM) and a faith and globalization delegation to Mexico (LCWR).

Committee members considered possible joint actions and agreed to organize a day at the UN in 2006, during the joint spring meeting. In discussing the potential for a meeting with European justice coordinators, the committees were joined by Cathy Arata, SSND, who serves on the international Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) committee in Rome and who was in the States for a community meeting. Cathy described the constituency of the committee, its work, and its relationship with UISG/USG.

## Global Concerns Committee Addresses Critical Issues

Following the joint justice and peace meeting, the LCWR Global Concerns Committee continued to meet to address LCWR issues. In anticipation of three new members joining the committee in August, conversation led to suggestions for orientation of new members.

Content for this year's LCWR annual report was generated, and topics for future issues of *Resolutions to Action* were identified: debt cancellation, racism, and death penalty. (The summer 2005 RTA, previously identified, will focus on water.)

The Conference of Women Religious of Japan extended an invitation to LCWR to participate in events commemorating the 60th anniversary of Hiroshima, August 6, and Nagasaki, August 9, 2005. Bea Eichten, OSF, LCWR vice president, will attend the anniversary events in Japan, and will present a statement from LCWR in conjunction with a statement to be issued by the Japanese conference. The GCC was given the task of identifying ways in which LCWR members in the United States can participate in remembrance of this 60th anniversary. Members will be encouraged to seek or create opportunities to participate in local events as regions and congregations and to identify either August 6 or August 9 as a special day of prayer and fasting. Several additional recommendations will be sent to the LCWR executive committee for approval.

The meeting also included the report of the LCWR associate director for social mission, planning for 2005 and beyond in the context of jubilee year activities, and several other topics. Motivated by the prospect of enjoying the famous Washington cherry blossoms, the GCC finished its work a few hours ahead of schedule. Unfortunately, the flowers did not cooperate, but members took the opportunity to visit Faces of the Fallen, artists' renditions of faces of US personnel killed in Iraq through November 2004, on exhibit at Arlington National Cemetery.

## LCWR Signs Statements

During the month of April, LCWR signed the following: a letter on debt cancellation from religious leaders to President George Bush and

Treasury Secretary John Snow, developed by Jubilee USA and Africa Action; a Justice Platform for Global Development which articulates a progressive agenda for action on the Millennium Development Goals; and a statement which analyzes CAFTA through the lens of the Interfaith Principles of Trade and Investment and was sent to members of Congress.

## LCWR Assembly 2005 Updates



### Reminders:

#### Staying at the Hotel Helps Keeps Assembly Costs Down

When assembly participants stay at the assembly meeting site, which this year is the Anaheim Hilton Hotel, the costs of the assembly are lower. LCWR receives a discounted rate on the meeting rooms if a sufficient number of hotel rooms are booked by participants. If this room quota is not met, the cost of meeting room rental increases.

#### Scholarship Funds are Available

LCWR is offering partial scholarships to members who may find it difficult to manage the full cost of the assembly. The scholarship may be applied to the costs of registration and hotel expenses, as well as to assistance with additional LCWR membership. Anyone interested in more information on scholarship assistance may contact either the LCWR executive director Carole Shinnick, SSND or executive assistant Suzanne Delaney, IHM at 301-588-4955.

The scholarships are made possible through the generosity of LCWR members who donate to the fund. Donations may be directed to Eleanor Granger, OSF associate director for finance and planning, at the national office.

## Update from the LCWR Finance Committee: Good Stewardship and Good Stewards

by Eleanor Granger, OSF

The LCWR Finance Committee met in Seal Beach, California, hosted by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Orange, for their spring meeting.

The committee welcomed Maryann Summa, OP as a new member to the committee. Maryann is the president of the Sparkill NY Dominican Sisters. She previously was a member of the LCWR Finance Committee when she served on her leadership team as treasurer. Once again she has generously agreed to offer her experience, expertise and many gifts for the next three years.

In the fall of 2005 Mary Bernadette McNulty, CSJ and Mary Jo Shingler PHJC will be leaving the committee. These women have been most generous in giving of their time and their expertise. LCWR and the committee are most grateful for their wisdom and their financial proficiency.

In the fall of 2005, Mary Persico IHM will join the committee. Mary is the president of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Scranton, Pennsylvania). Mary also served on her congregation's leadership team as the director of temporal resources. We are most grateful for her willingness to give of her gifts to this committee and the whole of LCWR.

**Financial Position:** As of February 2005 the LCWR financial position is healthy and continues to slowly recover from the losses of the previous years.

**Investments:** In a conference call, Vincent McNichol of Rittenhouse-Nuveen Inc., our investment manager, and the committee reviewed the investment portfolio for the period ending February 2004. The stated purpose of Rittenhouse is "to increase and protect the portfolio value over time. This is accomplished by focusing on our time-tested philosophy of concentrating on high-quality, large-capitalization growth stocks and high-grade intermediate-term bonds. Over a full market cycle, Rittenhouse expects to participate fully in rising markets while avoiding the complete impact of down markets."



LCWR Finance Committee members: (standing) Eleanor Granger, OSF; Mary Jo Shingler, PHJC; Alice Cote, RJM; and Jean Keniry, OSF (seated) Mary Bernadette McNulty, CSJ; Rose Jochmann, OSF (treasurer) and Maryann Summa, OP

At the end of February the investments had not gained, but the expectation is that some additional growth will increase over the next quarter.

**Membership Dues:** the committee is grateful to the regions who submitted information regarding membership in the region as well as national membership. This study is a continuation from previous meetings. Rose Jochmann, OSF, the staff at LCWR and the committee spent considerable time developing a sound plan which will be recommended to the LCWR executive committee in July and the national board in August.

**Future Meetings:** The fall meeting of the Finance Committee will be held at the national office in Silver Spring, Maryland from October 28 – 31, 2005. The spring meeting will also be held in Silver Spring from April 7-10, 2006.



*From the LCWR Executive Director*

## Unexpected Surges of Deep Emotion

By the time you read this you may have had more than enough accounts of recent events in Rome, so forgive me for adding yet one more. Bea Eichten's article in this issue of *Update* captures well the sights, the sounds, and the experience of being in Rome for such an historic moment. I would like to offer a few more snapshots to complement what Bea has already presented.



*Carole Shinnick, SSND*

The LCWR delegation had flown to Rome on Friday, April 1, arriving early on Saturday morning. After catching up a bit on sleep, showering and unpacking, Christine, Constance and I went out for supper. At about 9:00 PM we went to St. Peter's Square to join the enormous, and unusually hushed crowd gathered there. Everyone was facing the dimly lit windows of the papal apartments. Directly below the pope's window a large group of young people stood quietly singing – serenading the dying John Paul into

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*Now that I am home, I ask myself,  
"Who was that person who stood and clapped  
and wept and waited?"*

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eternity. Periodically they would burst into applause, and then resume their singing. I hope – if it's true that hearing is the last sense to go – that the pontiff heard those young voices and youthful spirits sending him tenderly back to God.

The pope's body was moved to St. Peter's basilica on Monday evening and enormous crowds began to pour in to pay their respects. Constance and I decided to rise at 3:30 AM the next day and go to St. Peter's to get in line. When we arrived at 4:00 AM there were already about 100,000 people ahead of us. After three hours we entered the cathedral – part of an enormous human river - the People of God streaming into St. Peter's. There were families with babies and elderly in wheelchairs. There were young people with blue hair, tattoos, pieced lips and enormous backpacks. And we were there, inching shoulder to shoulder along with thousands of amiable people willing to stand in the pre-dawn chill to say good-bye.

On Friday, the day of the funeral, we did not attempt to get near St. Peter's. Instead Christine, Bea and I walked to a plaza about a mile away where large outdoor TV screens had been set up. By the time the liturgy began there were about 30,000 people in the square. Everywhere the red and white flags of Poland flapped proudly over the crowd, many with the "Solidarity" logo. People had bicycled in, hiked in, camped out all night. Multiple times the crowd burst into applause. No moment was more touching than when - at the very end of the liturgy - the gathering began a steady, solemn clapping as the casket was lifted up for a final trip. By the time the pallbearers turned and tilted the pope's body towards the crowd, the applause had reached a crescendo and tears ran down our faces.

Now that I am home, I ask myself, "Who was that person who stood and clapped and wept and waited?" Heaven knows I have my own struggles with the Church. But in the week that had elapsed I was often taken off guard by unexpected surges of deep emotion. I suspect it might have been the little grammar school kid still living in me - the uniformed child from the parish grammar school who memorized the *Baltimore Catechism* - the little girl who carried a lace chapel veil in a plastic pouch, at the ready for a pop-in church visit

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- the so-so alto who sang "O, Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today" in the annual May procession. That little kid would never have believed that she would ever stand in St. Peter's Square for a pope's farewell. I think it was she who came out in Rome to remind me that she still lives inside. She is the "Cradle Catholic" deep within who loves the Church like family, even if she doesn't always feel it. I'm glad she emerged to say she is still there.



## From the LCWR National Office: LCWR Bids Farewell to Receptionist Kathy Day

Although not every LCWR member may have personally met Kathy Day, anyone who has called the LCWR national office in the last two years has surely encountered her welcoming greeting and gracious assistance. Kathy has been serving as the receptionist for LCWR and CMSM since June 2003 and has expertly directed calls and assisted with numerous office tasks for the two conferences with unparalleled dedication.



Kathy will be leaving LCWR and CMSM on May 6 to begin her retirement. The LCWR staff wishes her many blessings as she begins this new moment in her life.

## Leading From Within Retreat



Registration is now closed for the 2006 LCWR Leading from Within Retreat. There are now 25 members registered, and five more on a waiting list.

The retreat will be offered again in January 2007.

## Upcoming LCWR Dates

### LCWR Assembly

Anaheim, California

August 19, 2005

Registration: 1:00 - 6:00 PM

Opening of Assembly: 7:00 PM

August 22, 2005

Assembly adjourns after LCWR Banquet

August 23, 2005

Departure and Travel Day

### LCWR-CMSM Delegation to El Salvador

November 30 -- December 6, 2005

### LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

Mater Dolorosa Passionist Retreat Center

Sierra Madre, California

January 15 -- 20, 2006

### LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank,

Franciscan Center -- Tampa, Florida

February 12 -- 14, 2006

### LCWR New Leader Workshop

St. Mary of the Lake -- Mundelein, Illinois

March 30 -- April 2, 2006

### LCWR Assembly

Atlanta, Georgia

August 18 -- 22, 2006

### LCWR Assembly

New Orleans, Louisiana

August 2 -- 6, 2007



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FROM THE  
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF  
RELIGIOUS LIFE

## CSRL Launches New Website

The new CSRL website, which has been in process for several years, is now operational at [www.religious-life.org](http://www.religious-life.org). The main sections are About Us, Publications, Research, Programs, Newsletters, Membership and Resource Organizations.

The Publications page includes all CSRL publications, as well as order information. There is also an order form for books available through NCCV.

The Programs page includes descriptions of upcoming programs, as well as registration forms for the Cultural Audit workshop to be held August 11-13, 2005 at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Past issues of *Kindling* can be found in Newsletters, including the Summer 2004 issue on reconfiguration and the Winter 2005 issue on emerging communities. Under Resource Organizations, contact information is available for: Consecrated Life Resources, Federations and Conferences of Religious, Cultural Diversity Resources, and Data Resources.

## Membership Renewal Begins in May

Membership information will be mailed to all leaders during the month of May.



### Reminder:

The first reflection *In the Sound of the Gentle Breeze*, the LCWR collection of peace-making reflections, was written for use on May 3. Join your prayer with the nearly 20,000 persons throughout the United States and in several other countries who have copies of this resource .

## CSRL Calendar of Programs

Aug. 11-13, 2005  
**Cultural Audit Workshop**  
CTU, Chicago, IL

Feb. 5-8, 2006  
**Cultural Audit Workshop**  
Marywood Center, Jacksonville, FL

March 5-8, 2006  
**Interdisciplinary Forum: Leaders & Scholars**  
**"The Individual and the Common Good"**  
King's House, Belleville, IL

Aug. 10-12, 2006  
**Cultural Audit Workshop**  
CTU, Chicago, IL

Fall 2006  
**Interdisciplinary Forum: Leaders & Scholars**  
**"The Individual and the Common Good"**

Spring 2007  
**Interdisciplinary Forum: Leaders & Scholars**  
**"The Individual and the Common Good"**

## LRCR Welcomes New Staff Member

The Legal Resource Center for Religious welcomed Lynn Jarrell, OSU, JCD to the staff in January 2005 and in April, she began working from the Silver Spring office.



An Ursuline Sister of Louisville, KY, Lynn received her JCD from the Catholic University of America. She has been a canonical consultant who has worked with religious communities both in the United States and elsewhere. She has held leadership positions in her religious congregation and has published articles on religious life.

Lynn offered two workshops at LRCR's Annual Legal Seminar in Atlanta, Georgia: New Members and New Problems, and The Novitiate: Ins & Outs.