

Update

A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

December 2017

LCWR Appoints Interim Executive Director

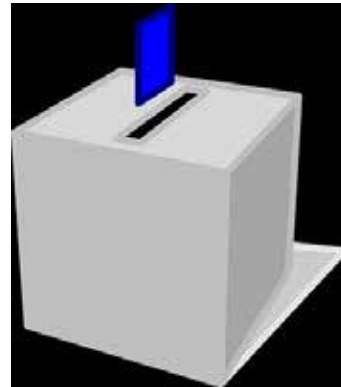
LCWR has appointed **Carole Shinnick, SSND** as its interim executive director for a six-month period, beginning on January 1, 2018. She will follow Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, whose three-year term of service to LCWR will end on December 31.



Carole will serve in this capacity while the search for an executive director continues. In a message to the LCWR membership, the LCWR presidency stated, "We are working closely with the LCWR national board and Joan Marie to identify the critical tasks that need to be accomplished while the search continues. We feel very confident that Carole has the experience and skills to administer the conference to meet these needs during this period of transition. Carole was an elected leader in her own community -- the School Sisters of Notre Dame, was the executive director of LCWR from 2002-2008, the director of communications for the SSNDs from 2009-2010, and has served since 2010 as a facilitator and consultant to numerous communities of women religious nationally and internationally. She brings a wealth of insights to the position and has very generously accepted this key role."

Carole holds graduate degrees in American Studies and in clinical social work, and holds a graduate certificate in spiritual formation.

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LCWR Begins Process for National Board Elections

Fifteen LCWR members have accepted a call to be nominees for the LCWR national board. Instructions for voting, qualifications for nominees, and a write-up and photo of each nominee have been posted on the members' section of the LCWR website. Votes must be cast online before 5:00 PM EST on Friday, December 8.

Looking for Christmas Gift Ideas?

See page 5 for ideas for great gifts that will also support the mission of LCWR.



From the LCWR Presidency

Where Does Love Lead Us?

by Sharlet Wagner, CSC — LCWR President-Elect

Each issue of *Update* now includes “emerging questions” designed to engage us in reflection about religious life, leadership, and the signs of the times. One of the questions the Contemporary Religious Life Committee gave us in the November issue asked, “Where has love led me/us?” I found this question particularly intriguing. The call to religious life is a call to love, and the call to leadership is a call to love in a particular context. Where has our response to the call to love led us? And where is it leading us?

I found one answer to those questions in a reflection written by one of our temporarily professed sisters from India. This young sister is participating in our congregation’s leadership development program. In her monthly reflection, she wrote about her parish priest.

As is typical of village churches in this part of India, there are no pews. The people sit side-by-side on the floor. And as is typical, it seems, of Catholics around the world, the people prefer to sit toward the back of the church. The parish priest asked the people repeatedly to move to the front, but to no avail. The back of the church filled, while the front remained empty. The priest devised a simple but ingenious solution. One Sunday after the people were seated he took a small table and set it in the middle of the church, placed a presider’s chair next to this new “altar,” and began Mass. The people would not move to the front of the church, so he moved the front of the church to the people! For this sister, the parish priest illustrated how essential it is for a leader to move into the midst of the people.

Therein lies one answer to “Where does love lead us?” Love leads us into the midst. As women religious and



as elected leaders in our congregations, standing on the peripheries is not an option, no matter how appealing it may sometimes be.

Love leads us into the midst of darkness as we wrestle with the questions of what God is calling our congregations to do and to be at this time. Love leads us into the midst of our congregations when we walk to the podium though we would rather remain silent, when we put aside fatigue and welcome a sister who wants to talk and needs a leader’s listening ear, when we feel the sting of unearned criticism and when we know the soothing support of a kind word.

Love leads us
into the midst
of God’s people
as it calls us to use
our moral voice
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Love leads us into the midst of God’s people as it calls us to use our moral voice to speak for gospel values. I admit to having felt the temptation of isolation in recent months as I have watched intolerance, misogyny, and unashamed, unabashed racism rear its head in the country that I love. We see those who have been richly blessed, who enjoy secure homes and an excess of resources, turn away and even revile desperate people fleeing poverty and violence. Love does not permit us to disengage. Rather,

it leads us into communion with others as we together reject the voices that would divide us.

Where has love led us? Our love of God and of God’s people has led us to respond to the call to elected leadership in the congregations we love. It has led women religious to remain faithful and faith-filled when our church has questioned our fidelity. It has led us to the inner cities and to the rural hills and hollers, to corporate boardrooms and to soup kitchens. It has led us deep within ourselves. It has led us into the unknown and beyond the knowable. Love leads us always into the midst.

LCWR Participates in USCCB Meetings

By Joan Marie Steadman, CSC – LCWR Executive Director

The LCWR presidency, Teresa Maya, CCVI; Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; and Sharlet Wagner, CSC; and I participated in the November 10 meeting of the **Commission on Religious Life and Ministry**. Cardinal Joseph Tobin chairs the commission which has among its tasks the establishment of guidelines and criteria for the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO).

Representatives of the following organizations were present at the meeting: the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, LCWR, USCCB, NRRO, and National Vicars for Religious Conference. Meaningful dialogue on the National Convocation for Catholic Leaders, V Encuentro, the upcoming synod on youth, religious institutes coming to completion, and *Mutuae Relationes* marked this gathering. LCWR was responsible for coordinating the planning and facilitation of the meeting this year.

As executive director, I participated in a meeting of the **USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations**, which is also chaired by Cardinal Tobin. This committee assists bishops in promoting, supporting, and educating about the needs and concerns for the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life. The theme of the meeting focused on how we as church can better accompany young people in ways that encourage them to discern their vocation and see it as flowing from their baptism. In the small group conversation on consecrated life, we discussed particular characteristics of young people today and how they influence life in community. The work that each participant had done in responding to the questionnaire on preparation for the Synod on Youth gave a depth to the sharing.

Teresa, Sharlet, and I attended the November 13 -14 **USCCB general assembly** which was open to observers. We also participated in the beautiful liturgy on Sunday, November 12 celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Bishops Conference. The opportunity to share a meal with the CMSWR members present for the meeting was a delight and the exchange was enriching. It has become tradition to have lunch with Archbishop J Peter Sartain and this is always a joy. LCWR is remembered in his prayer each morning.

As the bishops addressed the numerous topics on their agenda there was great resonance with the work we are all doing to make Catholic Social Teaching come alive in our faith community. The bishops are very actively engaged in addressing racism, access to healthcare, immigration and tax reform. They clearly name them as issues of justice to which the Gospel calls us to respond. The needs of the vulnerable are at the heart of their communication and collaboration with others as they urge legislators to work together for the common good. The agenda was full and covered a wide range of topics including family life, the annual budget for the USCCB, evangelization and catechesis, the upcoming V Encuentro, and the Synod on Youth to be held in Panama, to name just a few of the topics.

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

At the 2017 LCWR assembly,
members expressed interest in exploring
how they and LCWR might use their moral
voice to be the presence of love
in the public square and
on the margins/peripheries of society.

HOW DO YOU BELIEVE WOMEN
RELIGIOUS CAN MOST EFFECTIVELY
USE THEIR MORAL VOICE?

HOW DO YOU BELIEVE LCWR CAN
MOST EFFECTIVELY USE ITS
MORAL VOICE?



Registration Now Open for LCWR's New Leader Workshop

From April 12 - 15, 2018 LCWR will hold its annual New Leader Workshop in Mundelein, Illinois. With a team of outstanding resource persons, the workshop provides input and a number of opportunities to explore and apply new learnings with others.

Using role play, journaling, conversation, and contemplative engagement, the workshop assists participants in deepening their knowledge, skills, and capacities as transformational leadership teams.

All persons registering for the workshop will receive a link to a set of online resources created for this workshop. These resources include in-depth presentations by Lynn M. Levo, CSJ; Janice Bader, CPPS; Lynn Jarrell, OSU; and Simone Campbell, SSS. The presentations focus on many of the issues elected leaders face on a regular basis. These resources are intended to provide a context for participants prior to the workshop and also assist with ongoing leadership development when participants return home.

New leaders and new leadership teams are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. This workshop has proven invaluable to new and returning leaders. [Registration materials and additional information are available on the LCWR website.](#)



LCWR Welcomes New Employee

LCWR and CMSM welcomed **John Baroi** to their staffs as an administrative specialist. John says, "As a Catholic, it's a great opportunity for me to work for LCWR and CMSM. I earned my MBA degree from the University of Asia Pacific in Bangladesh. I immigrated to the United States in August 2012. I am a husband of a beautiful woman and we are blessed with a baby girl named Genesis. Target was my previous employer. But here I feel so blessed to work with these wonderful persons around me."



John can be reached at 301-588-4955 and at jbaroi@lcwr.org.

Thousands of Faith Leaders Urge Congress to Pass the Dream Act

From October 29-November 4, people of faith across the country were [praying with Dreamers](#) and showing support for the Dream Act.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will end on March 5. Every day that passes without congressional action means more suffering, anxiety, and fear in the lives of Dreamers, their families, and communities. People of faith are calling on Congress to enact the Dream Act of 2017. Dreamers are neighbors, co-workers, students, and friends, and their home is here in the United States.

Each day during Praying with Dreamers week the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) sent letters of support from leading faith-based organizations urging Congress to take up a legislative solution immediately. Throughout the week IIC sent more than 40 letters representing hundreds of faith-based organizations, agencies, and communities, and millions of faithful people across the United States. [LCWR sent a letter as well.](#) More information about the bipartisan Dream Act 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) can be found at the [National Immigration Law Center](#).

Looking for Christmas Gift Ideas?



The following low-cost gifts are not only meaningful Christmas presents, but their purchase helps to defray the cost of the resources that LCWR provides its members.

Contemplative Greeting Cards
 \$10.00 for a set of 10 folded, blank cards
[Purchase through LCWR](#)

Gift Subscription to *Occasional Papers*
 \$15.00 for a one-year subscription
[Purchase through LCWR](#)

Transformational Leadership Book
 Price varies
www.orbisbooks.com or amazon.com

Spiritual Leadership for Challenging Times Book
 Price varies
www.orbisbooks.com or amazon.com

LCWR Appoints Interim Executive Director

(continued from page 1)

LCWR is grateful to the members of the search committee for their work thus far: Teresa Maya, CCVI, chair; Judith Desmarais, SP; Pat Eck, CBS; Virginia Herbers, ASCJ; and Carole Shinnick. The committee will continue the search for an executive director.



Order Upcoming Occasional Papers

The Winter 2018 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* will take the theme, "At the Heart of Our Life." For several years, LCWR has been exploring the enormous shift taking place in human evolution and has been asking questions about the role of religious life as this shift occurs. Along with all the changes transpiring in the global community, changes are occurring as well in religious life as it has been known in recent decades.

As the life undergoes profound transformation, this issue will explore what is most at the heart of religious life that makes it of value for these times and for the challenges of the future. What is it that women religious value the most about this life that they wish to nurture and assure will stay strong so that it is not lost as the life undergoes change? What do the people served by religious and the larger global community most need from the presence of religious in the world at this complex, rapidly changing time in the planet's history? The issue will include an interview with **Sandra Schneiders, IHM** on living into resurrection.

All LCWR members, associates, and subscribers will receive a copy of this issue. Many leaders order additional copies for their members, staff, associates, boards, and others. These orders may be placed at lcwr.org/item/winter-2018 by **December 20**.

Subscriptions to *Occasional Papers* are also available. More information on subscribing may be found at: lcwr.org/publications/occasional-papers/subscribe.



Outside of the LCWR headquarters in Silver Spring: Markus Sakendorf-Alz; Chris Beckett, SCN; Johannes Seidel; Joan Mumaw, IHM; Florian Mittl; Marie McCarthy, SP; Msgr. Markus Bosbach; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM

LCWR Welcomes Delegation of European Church Leaders

For several years, LCWR has annually welcomed delegations from Pastoral Innovation in Austria, an organization that supports the exploration of creative ideas for strengthening the Catholic Church. Each year, Pastoral Innovation brings Catholic leaders from Europe to the United States to visit vibrant parishes and to meet with various organizations that promote creative ideas in leadership.

This year's delegation visited the LCWR offices on Saturday, November 11 and spent several hours discussing with LCWR staff members concepts related to leadership, working with young people, spirituality, and other topics of mutual interest and concern.



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Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 23) Met in Bonn

In December of 2015, 195 nations, including the United States, agreed to work together to protect humanity's common home and future, by taking actions that seek to prevent the Earth's temperature from rising beyond 1.5 degrees Celsius. The document cementing this cooperation is known as the Paris Climate Change Agreement. The international body which accomplished this unprecedented act of global cooperation is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Their work is aided by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which provides the world with an objective, scientific view of climate change and its political and economic impacts.

In mid-November the [23rd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC \(COP23\)](#) met in Bonn, Germany to continue to advance the global efforts to address climate change. However, the Trump Administration remains undecided on the nation's continued participation in these negotiations. Furthermore, the administration seeks to eliminate the United States' funding contribution of \$10 million to the UNFCCC and IPCC within the federal budget.

As the government delegates gathered in Bonn, leaders of Catholic organizations, including LCWR's president Teresa Maya, CCVI, wrote to President Trump and members of Congress urging them to reassert leadership in the global effort to address climate change. Their requests were simple: act based upon the best available climate science; fund the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change; honor US commitments to the Green Climate Fund; and participate meaningfully in the COP 23.

The letter read in part, "Catholic leaders across the nation and world have explicitly and consistently affirmed climate change as a moral issue that threatens core Catholic values including the protection of human life, the promotion of human dignity, the advancement of the common good, the call to live in solidarity with future generations, and the care for God's creation, our common home."

House Tax Plan Does Not Reflect National Values or Catholic Social Teaching

Like the federal budget, tax bills are, at their core, moral documents. It identifies national priorities and determine who receives privilege and who pays the price. The tax code ought to reflect the values of the nation and deeply held beliefs about the dignity of the human person and the priority of the common good.

The Republican Tax Cut and Jobs Act (HR 1), fails the test. It violates this nation's values as well as the measures of tax fairness and fiscal discipline. A tax plan that advantages the few at the expense of the many is inconsistent with the Gospel message and with Catholic Social Teaching.

HR 1 will grow the deficit by \$1.5 trillion dollars over ten years threatening not only the fiscal health of the nation, but also future funding for the programs that benefit those most in need. The lost revenue will lead directly to future cuts in critical anti-poverty programs and low-income services including Medicaid, SNAP, low-income housing assistance, and other critical services for families struggling to make ends meet.

An analysis by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) found that nearly a third of the tax cuts that would benefit Americans would go to the richest one percent in 2018, and by 2027 that fraction would rise to nearly half.

Some of the provisions in the House bill that benefit the middle-class — like lower tax rates and fewer brackets, an increased standard deduction, and a \$300 tax credit for each adult in a household — are designed to expire or become less generous over time. Some of the provisions that benefit the wealthy, such as the reduction and eventual repeal of the estate tax, become more generous over time. The result is that by 2027, the benefits of the House bill become increasingly generous for the richest one percent compared to other income groups. ITEP, 2017 November 6. Richest Americans Benefit Most from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Retrieved from <https://itep.org/housetaxplan>.

The tax plan being pushed by congressional leadership would inflate the country's deficits and give massive tax cuts to a few wealthy individuals while threatening to make life more difficult for many, especially the most vulnerable.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center

Tucson, Arizona

January 14 – 19, 2018

Imagining Justice Workshop

Redemptorist Renewal Center

Tucson, Arizona

March 12 – 15, 2018

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center

University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

April 12 — 15, 2018

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri

August 7— 11, 2018

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center

University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

April 4 — 7, 2019

LCWR Assembly

Scottsdale, Arizona

August 13 — 17, 2019

LCWR Assembly

Dallas, Texas

August 11 — 15, 2020



Trump Administration Moves to End TPS

Temporary Protected Status (TPS), is a life-saving immigration program that allows foreign nationals to remain in the United States if, while they are in the United States something catastrophic happened in their country of origin that prevents their safe return. TPS protects people from deportation and allows them to work legally while they remain in this country. Currently, TPS protects approximately 330,000 people in the United States. The Trump administration is considering canceling TPS for everyone.

On September 18, 2017 Acting Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Elaine Duke, terminated the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designations for Sudan. Less than two months later, Acting Secretary Duke, terminated TPS designations for Nicaragua, effective January 5, 2019. The administration also failed to make a decision for Honduras, resulting in a TPS extension for only six months, until July 5, 2018. The acting Secretary has signaled the possibility that the TPS designation for Honduras might also be terminated at the end of that six-month automatic extension. DHS is also facing decisions on TPS for Haiti (November 23, 2017) and El Salvador (January 8, 2018).

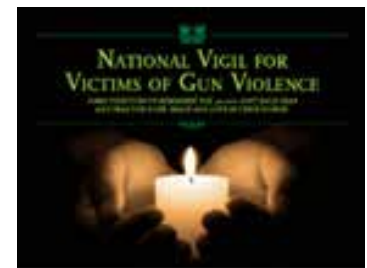
Faith leaders across traditions are responding to these latest moves against immigrants by the Trump administration and are urging DHS to reinstate TPS for Nicaragua and extend TPS for Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti for at least another 18 months, and they are demanding that Congress pass a permanent legislative solution that offers TPS holders the opportunity to remain in their communities and with their families.

“We strongly object to the heartless decision by the Trump administration to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Nicaragua and to its failure to extend TPS for Honduras. Rescinding TPS is short-sighted and inconsistent with the values and traditions of this nation,” said Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, executive director of LCWR, “TPS holders are our neighbors and friends. They have been contributing members of our communities for decades. Rescinding TPS protection for Nicaragua and threatening TPS holders from Honduras, Haiti, and El Salvador places us all at risk. Ending TPS will tear families apart, fragment our communities, and disrupt local economies.”

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Office of Migration and Refugee Services (USCCB/MRS), recently released reports on the necessity of TPS extensions for El Salvador and Honduras as well as Haiti. The reports and other resources related to TPS are available on the [Justice for Immigrants website](#).

Nationwide Vigils Planned to #EndGun-Violence

December 14, 2017 marks the fifth anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Since that heartbreaking day in 2012, half a million Americans have been killed or injured by guns. Now the nation has faced the deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas and the massacre of worshippers in Sutherland Springs, TX. It has to stop.



The Newtown Foundation, in partnership with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Everytown Survivor Network, Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Organizing for Action, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, and the Women’s March on Washington will host the annual national vigil of mourning and loving remembrance for all who have fallen victim to the ongoing epidemic of gun violence in America on December 6 and nationwide vigils from December 6-17.

Faith, gun violence prevention, social justice, and other organizations are invited to hold local events in their towns and cities from December 6-17. The goal is to unite the movement, continue to raise awareness, educate, and keep this critical issue front and center throughout the nation. [Information on registering or hosting](#) a vigil or event is available. Registrants will receive the 2017 National Vigil Tool Kit to facilitate planning and to coordinate a collective gun violence prevention message.



- Letter to members of Congress in support of the bipartisan, compromise legislation negotiated by Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) and ranking member Patty Murray (D-WA) of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to stabilize the health insurance markets. LCWR (10/23/17)
- Letter to House and Senate leadership urging them to support a budget agreement that rejects increases to Pentagon spending or that forces cuts in diplomacy, peacebuilding, development, and human rights protection and to produce a budget that meets human needs. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (10/30/17)
- LCWR letter to members of Congress asking them to immediately enact the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440). Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (11/2/17)
- Letter in support of House Concurrent Resolution 81 to force a debate and a vote on ending unauthorized U.S. military involvement in Yemen's civil war. LCWR (11/2/17)
- Letter to Senate and House chairs and ranking members of the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Subcommittees asking them to demonstrate bold leadership by supporting a State-Foreign Operations (SFOPs) bill that robustly funds and protects all humanitarian and poverty-focused development assistance, and peacebuilding accounts as they work towards finalizing the budget for fiscal year 2018. LCWR (11/3/17)
- Letter to members of Congress from faith-based organizations urging them to immediately enact the Dream Act of 2017 (S. 1615/H.R. 3440) which provides a long overdue pathway to citizenship for immigrant youth. LCWR (11/6/17)
- Interfaith letter to members of Congress opposing the Tax Cut and Jobs Act (H.R. 1) because the bill violates faith values as well as tax fairness and fiscal discipline. LCWR (11/7/17)
- Statement from faith-based organizations urging

members of the Ways and Means Committee to vote in favor of the Sanchez Amendment to protect the Child Tax credit and reject harmful tax policies that will hurt low-income and vulnerable families. LCWR (11/8/17)

- Letter to members of Congress on behalf of the Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence coalition demanding that they take immediate action to curb the onslaught of gun violence plaguing the nation. (LCWR (11/9/17)
- Letter to President Trump and members of Congress from Catholic leaders urging the U.S. to reassert leadership in the global effort to address climate change. Teresa Maya, CCVI (11/15/17)

Resource Center for Religious Institutes Position Opening: Civil Lawyer/Staff Attorney

The Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI), located in Silver Spring, Maryland, seeks a part-time staff attorney to assist the organization in carrying out its mission to approximately 500 member religious institutes and societies of apostolic life. The civil lawyer serves as a resource to RCRI members and staff seeking assistance on legal matters that pertain to religious institutes. The position is to begin effective January 1, 2018.

Responsibilities

The civil lawyer will serve as the point person for questions/issues raised by members relating to civil law; respond to requests for consultation on a range of civil law issues including taxes and IRS regulations, benefits such as social security, Medicare and Medicaid; review of corporate documents and trusts; research civil law implications of canon law topics; provide appropriate research, development and written documentation for articles and news updates for RCRI publications; participate in the RCRI annual conference; and serve as a presenter at the conference when appropriate.

Additional information can be obtained from RCRI executive director Sharon Euart, RSM at seuart@trcri.org.



**The Roots of Racism:
Implications for Candidate Assessment and
Integration into Vowed Communal Life**

Mexican American Catholic College
San Antonio, Texas
February 18 – 21, 2018

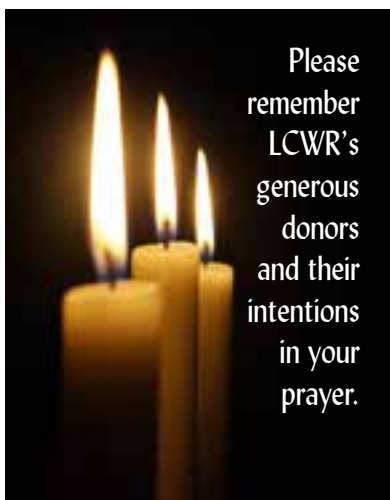
An extended time of contemplative dialogue and discernment on how the signs of the times impact vocation ministry. **Dr. Arturo Chavez** and **Dr. John Chitakure** will guide participants to examine beliefs and mindsets about race. Engaging presentations will help build a common language and historical analysis of race as a social construction. Prayer, reflection, and rituals will guide the planning for communal action and systemic change.

Fees:

Workshop fees include materials, speaker, lunch and facility fees:

Commuter:

\$375 – NRVC member, \$563—Non NRVC Member
Resident: (includes private room with shared bath; breakfast, lunch and supper)
\$720—NRVC member, \$908—Non NRVC Member

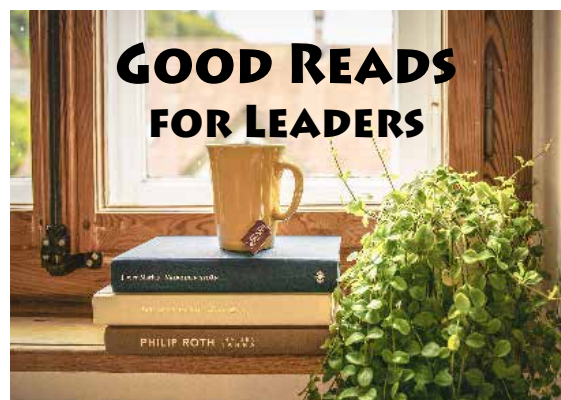


News from the National Religious Retirement Office

The Retirement Fund for Religious collection is set for December 9-10 in most US (arch)dioceses. Last year's collection helped 390 institutes through Direct Care Assistance grants. Many more benefited from other National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) programs.

The NRRO appreciates any efforts by women religious to promote the appeal. A speaker guide and other resources are available at retiredreligious.org/materials/, as well as a new social media toolkit, retiredreligious.org/social-media-toolkit/.

NRRO is also introducing its Tending the Vineyard strategic property planning video series. Funded by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, Tending the Vineyard is an initiative to promote effective property planning among religious institutes. With five videos and accompanying support materials, the new series features guidance from property experts and insights from religious who have completed congregational property initiatives. The videos are designed for leadership, members, lay staff, and other stakeholders who aid institutes in assessing and managing properties. More information is available at www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/tending-the-vineyard/index.cfm.



Any LCWR member who has read a book that may be of interest to other women religious leaders is asked to consider submitting a brief review to include in the monthly "Good Reads" column. This is a helpful way to share good resources with one another.

Contact LCWR communications director Anmarie Sanders, IHM for more information (asanders@lcsr.org).



New Associate Director

The Religious Formation Conference is pleased to announce its incoming associate director, Ryan J. Hoffman, who will bring to the conference a wide range of skills and experience as a Catholic nonprofit professional in communications and marketing, conference and event planning, and administrative leadership. His work at Loyola university Chicago, Catholic Theological Union, and Giving Voice has brought him into contact and professional relationships with a broad expanse of religious congregations of both women and men; most recently he has served as communications coordinator for Giving Voice. Ryan will join the RFC staff in January 2018.

Advent Webinar

Carmen Nanko-Fernandez, PhD, a faculty member at Catholic Theological Union, will offer an Advent webinar, *Posadas, Parrandas, Pastorales: Performing Resistant Hope in Troubled Times*, on December 13, 2017, at 2 pm CT. Registration information will be available on the RFC website.

Congress 2017

The RFC Board and staff thank all their colleagues and friends in LCWR for the outstanding support of its recent congress.

News from the UN

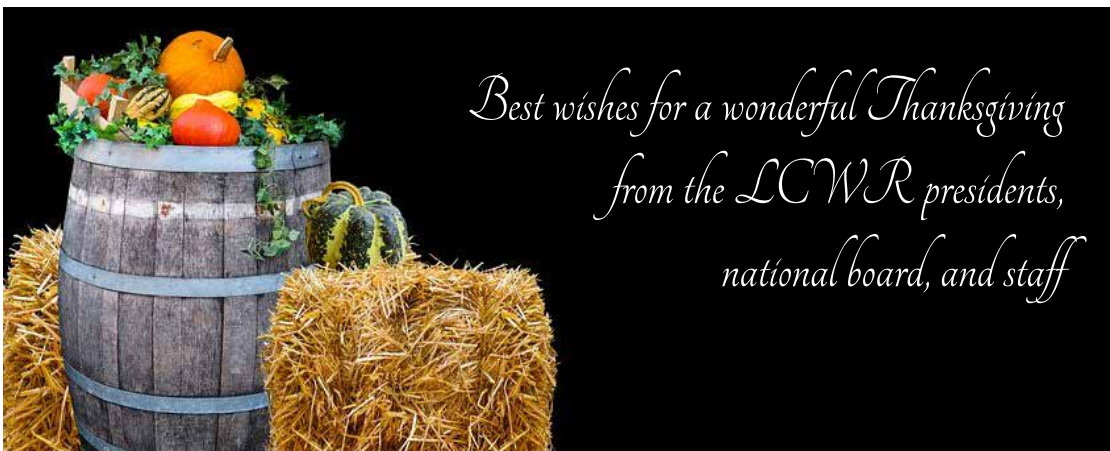
December 1 --World AIDS Day

has become one of the most recognized international health days and a key opportunity to raise awareness, commemorate those who have passed on, and celebrate victories, such as increased access to treatment and prevention services.



December 10—International Human Rights Day commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Disrespect for basic human rights continues to be wide-spread in all parts of the globe. Extremist movements subject people to horrific violence. Messages of intolerance and hatred prey on people's fears. It is time to reaffirm the dignity and rights outlined in the Declaration.

December 18—International Day of the Migrants marks the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. There are over 244 million migrants in the world today. One out of every six migrants is under the age of 20. Children also comprised more than half of the world's 65.3 million refugees in 2015, statistics that are higher than at any time since UNHCR records began.





**Friends in
SOLIDARITY**

by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

We Give You Thanks...

We have so much to be grateful for this Thanksgiving! Family, friends, a warm home, food on our plate and access to quality medical care. None of this is to be taken for granted and we are working hard to make sure that all in our nation continue to have what they need for a reasonable quality of life.

Such is not the case for so many of our brothers and sisters around the world. Many have lost family members, homes, and livelihood due to war, natural disasters, and economic collapse. South Sudan is one of those countries where the very act of survival is in question. Four million people out of 12 million are internally displaced and on the edge of famine and another two million have fled the country. Young boys are ready and willing to take up arms for any group who will feed and clothe them. In return they become “cannon fodder” as their lives are expendable. Young girls are beaten and raped as they gather firewood or seek food for their families. Seventy percent of all children are out of school for lack of teachers, classrooms, and security.

Solidarity with South Sudan is working to change this situation through education of teachers, nurses, midwives, farmers, and diocesan pastoral teams. We are grateful that the facilities built and staffed with your help have not been breached by armed militias or the national army. Solidarity continues to graduate leaders for the future, perhaps the only institution in the country to do so.

Giving Thanks by Giving Back

You can continue to support this work, the work of women and men religious from around the globe, by making a contribution at [Donate](#) or by considering an alternative gift on Black Friday, Cyber Monday or Giving Tuesday. There is a card available for you to send to your friends letting them know that you are honoring them by “giving back.” [Alternative Giving Card](#)

You can also “give back” by joining Pope Francis in prayer for South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on Thanksgiving weekend. A prayer service, a modification of that taking place in Rome on November 23rd is available at [Praying with Pope Francis for South Sudan and the DR of Congo](#). This prayer is also available in French and Spanish through the kindness of Sisters of Bon Secours and by request from jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com.

Happy Thanksgiving! We give thanks for you and your generous support of our work in South Sudan.

Association of Latin American Missionary Sisters Seeks Executive Director

The Association Latin American Missionary Sisters (AHLMA) is seeking an executive director. The Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) is partnering with AHLMA to securely establish the association as an independent 501(c) 3 in the state of Texas. This support includes administrative and fiscal oversight, grant accountability, ongoing consultancy, and office space at its San Antonio campus. The executive director will be an employee of MACC. She will be directly guided by the AHLMA board and work to implement the overall, strategic plan of the association. Key responsibilities include, but are not restricted to: 1) administrative leadership and resource development; 2) membership network and public relations; 3) board and strategic planning, and; 4) program development and Implementation.