

February 2018



2018 LCWR Assembly Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion August 7 - 10, 2018 St. Louis, Missouri

This year's LCWR assembly, *Being the Presence of Love: The Power of Communion*, builds on the experiences of past assemblies as well as the desire of LCWR members to delve more deeply into the narrative communion and Trinitarian theology. The assembly is being designed to demonstrate how a deeper embracing of communion can help members understand and experience themselves more fully as transformational leaders, particularly as the global community struggles with numerous fractures of communion.

LCWR is honored to have three keynoters who will work together throughout the course of the assembly in what promises to be an interesting and challenging dynamic that will model concepts of communion and Trinity. They are:

- **Brother Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB**, professor of theology and communications sciences in various institutions in Peru
- **Heidi Russell**, associate professor in the Institute of



Br. Simón Pedro Arnold, OSB



Heidi Russell



Gloria Schaab, SSJ

- **Gloria Schaab, SSJ**, professor of systematic theology and chair of the department of theology and philosophy at Barry University, Miami

The event will be set in a contemplative context with many opportunities for the participants to interact with one another, integrate the assembly content into their leadership ministries, and leave with an abundance of riches to share with their own communities at home.

From the LCWR Presidency

Unfinishedness

by Mary Pellegrino, CSJ — LCWR Past President

*"If we think seriously about our unfinished cosmos... we shall have to entertain new thoughts about everything, about who we are and where we are going, and about the meaning of our lives." -- John Haught, *The New Cosmic Story, Inside Our Awakening Universe**

I was startled when I first read Haught's sentiment because, in fact, I've actually been thinking a lot about unfinishedness. And maybe some of you have, too. As my congregation prepares for Chapter later this year and anticipates the vibrancy of that collective moment with the freshness that will follow, our Leadership Team has been tending to the question of "What can we finish or accomplish in the remainder of our term?"

Some things we will and indeed have finished. Others are underway and will remain unfinished, and still other things, not yet begun, we'll commend to our successors.

What, though, of the bigger picture? The longer view? The more enduring narrative? What, as Haught wonders, are the new thoughts about who we are, where we're going and the meaning of our lives that we need to entertain because of the incompleteness of our own lives, let alone the unfinishedness of the whole cosmos?

Perhaps the deeper question in all of that is what can any of us – personally or communally - hope to accomplish on our terms or in our lifetimes? What, if anything, does our fidelity to our vows and communal living accomplish? What difference do our efforts toward peace, reconciliation, justice, compassion, healing, mercy and just plain kindness and decency make in a world whose moral compass seems to have been completely recalibrated in the past year?



Where do we go with
our deep grief
and anger?
How do we reconcile
our utter disbelief
with the unquestion-
able reality?
How are we effective?

These are dangerous and painful times, made even more so by the impotence that most of us feel in the face of viral escalations of violence and the outrageous disregard for decency and civility demonstrated by our President and his administration's treatment of our most vulnerable brothers and sisters. Where do we go with our deep grief and anger? How do we reconcile our utter disbelief with the unquestionable reality? How are we effective?

Ironically, it's the reality that the world is unfinished and ongoing that brings me hope and offers a foothold against despair. It allows me to lift my eyes from the immediate and look to a further horizon, to see past the pain and passion of our day to a resurrected and redeemed life not yet fully formed, but promised nonetheless. It's that far horizon in either direction – toward the past or into the future – that allows us to remain deeply committed in the present with a fuller faith, a deeper devotion, a more perfect or whole experience of and attention to Mystery. This is our accomplishment in our unfinished world.

Perhaps it's from that perspective that Rilke heard the tender whisper of God:

... Let everything happen to you,
Beauty and terror,
Just keep going; No feeling is final.
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life,
You'll know it by its seriousness.
Take my hand.

LCWR Mourns the Passing of its Former President Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ

LCWR joins the Congregation of St. Joseph and many others in mourning the life of Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ, who died on December 28 at the age of 96. Catherine served in the LCWR presidency from 1982-85, was the recipient of the LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award in 2006, and worked as a lobbyist for NETWORK for 26 years.



Raised in Cleveland, she entered the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cleveland, a community that later merged with others to become the Congregation of St. Joseph. Her early ministries were in education, school administration, and initial formation. Soon after the Second Vatican Council, she became involved in church renewal movements with a focus on the role of women in the church. She served as chairperson of the National Assembly of Women Religious (NAWR) and of Sisters Uniting and was a member of the US Bishops' Advisory Board. While serving on her congregation's leadership team (from 1976-84), she was elected LCWR president.

In honoring Catherine with its Outstanding Leadership Award, LCWR described her as "a woman not intimidated, frightened or put off by tension, pressure, or power," nor one to "back away from difficult realities." The late Bette Moslander, CSJ -- who was in the LCWR presidency with Catherine -- said at that time, "Catherine was in LCWR leadership when the conference and US women religious were the focus of intense scrutiny by the church and by the US government. The major shifts of Vatican II renewal had brought about changes that were not yet accepted by the Catholic population in this country or by the Congregation of Religious in Rome." The late Miriam Therese Larkin, CSJ, also in the LCWR presidency with Catherine, added at that time, "Catherine's wisdom, insight, and straightforwardness during these times enabled her to make her point so clearly and cogently that further protests lost their meaning and simply died. We really cannot measure the

value of her service to women religious in the United States and in the world."

LCWR also noted while honoring Catherine that in her work as a lobbyist she had "become at home in centers of power, speaking her mind graciously to popes, presidents, and prime ministers. She has won the respect of many heavy-hitters in the political world.... She is equally at home, however, with the people who live on the margins. Her co-workers note that Catherine puts the same effort into building relationships with the world's power brokers as she puts into building relationships with the marginalized people whom she knows from the streets of DC. These are the people who give content and fire to the message she carries with such dignity around Washington."

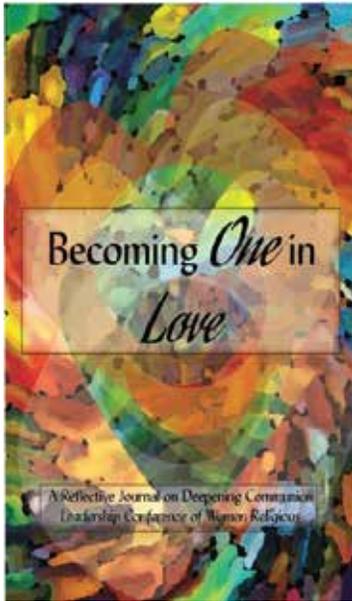
Catherine's funeral was held on January 2 in Cleveland.

Spaces Still Available 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.](#) Information on scholarships can be obtained by contacting Chris Beckett, SCN at cbeckett@lchw.org.



Order *Becoming One in Love*, the 2018 LCWR Reflective Journal

LCWR is taking orders for its 2018 book, *Becoming One in Love: A Reflective Journal on Deepening Communion*. This collection of reflections written by more than 30 LCWR members explores how women religious are coming to understand the concepts and challenges of communion, and what living from a place of deeper communion might mean for the world.

The writers probe the reality of the polarized world in which we live, and why the choice to move toward oneness and communion is critical. Artwork by Catholic sisters, as well as questions and suggestions for deepening the reader's own prayer, accompany the reflections.

The cost of each book is \$6.00, plus shipping and handling. Discounted prices are available for orders larger than 10 copies. Orders may be placed online. Although LCWR members, associates and subscribers will receive their own copies of the book, many leaders purchase additional copies for their members, associates, staffs, boards, benefactors, and friends. Some also sell the books in their motherhouse and retreat center gift shops.

Revenue from this LCWR project helps defray the costs of the resources and programs the conference provides its members.

Questions about orders may be directed to LCWR's administrative assistant, Carol Glidden, at cglidden@lcwr.org

LCWR will print only the amount of copies that are pre-ordered. Orders must be received with payment by March 9, 2018.

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

From the LCWR Call 2015-2022:

"We are ecclesial women, living in hope, rooted in the mission of Jesus. We claim our prophetic role and inherent responsibility in the Church by grounding all we are and all we do in a contemplative stance, by living in right relationship with all creation and being in solidarity with the global community."

- How are you living this part of the LCWR Call -- individually, as a leadership team, as a community?
- How would you like to see LCWR responding to this call as a conference?



A Message from Carole Shinnick, SSND, LCWR Interim Executive Director

“Reuse. Repurpose. Recycle. Upcycle.” That is the invitation sent out to the residents of Cocke County, Tennessee from the local chapter of “Keep America Beautiful.” In case you are curious, “upcycling” is turning something already quite valuable into something creatively upgraded, such as using the empty belly (yes that is the proper name) of a grand piano to create a gorgeous bookcase.



The phrase caught my imagination because I think many of us not only commit to recycling, but we even choose to allow ourselves to become recycled, repurposed -- and on occasion -- upcycled. So unexpectedly, after leaving the office of LCWR executive director in 2008, I find myself 10 years later back in the same role. As a member of the LCWR Executive Director Search Committee, I became aware that our work needed more time to develop a robust pool of persons willing to enter discernment for the role. I was also aware that Joan Marie Steadman’s term was close to ending. Because I already live in Silver Spring, about a 20 minutes’ drive from the LCWR offices, and had some familiarity with the role, I offered to step in as interim executive director until June 30, 2018. The presidents and the national board accepted my offer. The staff welcomed me. And here I am -- recycled and repurposed.

My arrangement with LCWR is that I work for the conference for two-thirds of the time, and for my facilitating practice for one-third. This is a challenge for sure. The hidden heroes in this saga are my very patient clients and an outstanding national LCWR staff.

What I want to emphasize in this message is that I am only here for the interim. As I said to someone recently in a conversation, “When you are 75, EVERYTHING is interim!” My mission for this time is to support the presidents, the board, and the staff in carrying forward the programs and projects already underway, and to smooth a welcoming path for the next executive director.

Soon you will be hearing from the Search Committee. They will be clear in calling each member and associate of LCWR to be co-responsible for helping the committee identify the next executive director. You will be encouraged to think and to pray. Who do you think you might approach to say: “I am wondering if you would be willing to consider and discern the possibility of serving LCWR as the next executive director. These are the things I see you have to offer.”

So please watch for the information coming within the next few weeks from the Search Committee. I ask you to pray that the conference will find the best possible person to fill this critical role. And pray for me in my recycled state that all goes well for the conference and the staff. Thanks!

Carole may be contacted at
cshinnick@lcwr.org
 301-588-4955, ext. 230

Information on the
 LCWR executive director position and
 a role description are on the [LCWR website](#).



Extra Copies of Occasional Papers Available

Due to a printer overrun, some extra copies of the Winter 2018 edition of *Occasional Papers*, entitled “At the Heart of the Life,” are available for purchase. Copies for members, associates, and others who previously ordered this publication are now in the mail.

Global Concerns Committee Publishes Winter 2018 Resolutions to Action

LCWR's Global Concerns Committee has published a new edition of *Resolutions to Action* (RTA), "[Resisting Mass Incarceration: Resisting Racism](#)" by Mary Ann McGivern, SL. "We know we live in a racist society," the publication reads. "We know we live in a punishing society where two million men and women are incarcerated and seven million are under criminal justice supervision. But white middle class residents of these United States have to go out of our way to witness racism and mass incarceration." The RTA, which includes a theological reflection process, is available on the LCWR website.

Global Sisters Report Publishes Articles on Women Religious and Racism

Global Sisters Report recently published, "[Reckoning: White sisters respond to their own racism, to one historian's call for justice](#)," which chronicles efforts being made by LCWR and US women religious to address racism within themselves and their congregations. The article is accompanied by a sidebar entitled, "[A sisters' community apologizes to one woman whose vocation was denied](#)," which describes the efforts of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Baden to apologize to a woman who was denied entrance to their community in 1960 because she was black. Dawn Araujo-Hawkins authored both articles.

Translations Available of Occasional Papers Articles

Three new translations of *Occasional Papers* articles have been added to the [LCWR website](#). They are:

- "Mapping in Mystery: Communal Discernment in Our Time of Middle Space" by Carole Shinnick, SSND and Nancy Schreck, OSF now available in Korean due to the generosity of the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill.
- "The Shadow of Death and the Dawn from on High," by Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP in Spanish
- "The Transformative Call of Suffering" by Sheila Lemieux, CSJP in Spanish

President Trump Ends TPS for Salvadorans

On January 8 President Trump canceled temporary residency permits for more than 262,000 Salvadorans who were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to live and work in this country after two earthquakes rocked El Salvador in 2001.



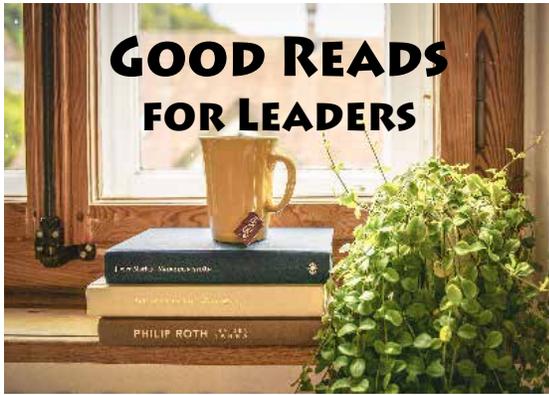
The administration's decision places Salvadorans, who have established themselves in this country as neighbors, friends, and trusted employees, at risk of deportation and it threatens their nearly 200,000 children who are citizens of this country with the prospect of being separated from their parents or leaving the country that is their home.

The TPS program is designed to protect people from being returned to harm. That is precisely what Salvadorans will face if they are deported. El Salvador is the most violent country in the Western Hemisphere and continues to suffer from endemic poverty, and lack of access to quality education and healthcare.

El Salvador is the fourth country whose people have been stripped of their right to protection by President Trump's administration. This decision follows the administration's moves to end TPS for Sudanese, Haitians and Nicaraguans.

LCWR issued a [statement](#) denouncing the President's action. It reads in part:

Rescinding TPS for human beings under continuing threat of violence of all types is inconsistent with the values and traditions of this nation and with our belief in the dignity of all persons.... Catholic sisters will continue to heed the scriptural command to welcome the stranger and care for those in need. We urge the Trump administration to reconsider its decisions and we call on Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to develop legislative solutions to protect vulnerable people.



In Our Own Words: Religious Life in a Changing World

Edited by Juliet Mousseau, RSCJ and Sarah Kohles, OSF
Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN, 2018

Recommended by Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP

Thirteen sisters, under 50 years of age and representing membership in both LCWR and CMSWR congregations, have come together in prayer, study, dialogue, and their shared love for religious life to write reflections on living religious life today. *In Our Own Words* does not seek to describe the ministerial life as much as articulate how they live their vows within the context of the current world's needs. Each contribution reveals varying perspectives born of substantive research and contemplative understanding. Scripture, woven into their engagement of daily living, is articulated with freshness and hope. Their vocational call, embraced in ordinary and extraordinary circumstances, is frequently noted with expressions of profound gratitude to God and the desire to be of service to those most in need. The evangelical vows are richly woven into stories of personal and communal expression, encouraging the reader toward renewal.

More to the point however, this is a good read, because these sisters unabashedly recognize the chaos of the current world order and trust that the Spirit will continue to lead us into the future. Words like collaboration, communion, inter-congregational and permeable boundaries are embraced as a normalized worldview. Attentiveness and service to the poor, the marginalized, and the oppressed remain a primary focus and their own manner of living is to reflect such solidarity. *In Our Own Words*, reminds us, leaders in this time transforma-

tion and change, that our newer members have deep wisdom to offer us. It is a book to engage and savor, allowing our hearts to hear our own call anew.

Book will be available February 15, 2018 and may be pre-ordered.

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@lcwr.org).

Sisters Urge Speaker Ryan to Craft a Moral Budget

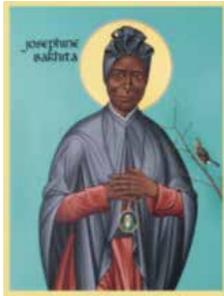
As Congress debated the details of the FY2018 budget, nearly 1000 women religious wrote letters to Speaker of the House Paul Ryan. Their messages reflected their own experiences of living and ministering with those most directly impacted by the federal budget. While each of the letters was unique, they shared a common purpose. They reminded the Speaker that the budget is a moral document and called on him to ensure that the FY 2018 budget reflected the values of the nation and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. They reminded Speaker Ryan that a budget worthy of this nation and consistent with his own Catholic faith must prioritize human needs, ensure funding to care for vulnerable members of society, restore economic opportunity, and invest in the common good.

Kathleen Kanet, RSHM conceived the project last spring, NETWORK managed the logistics, and LCWR helped recruit letter-writers. Organizers planned to hand-deliver the letters to Speaker Ryan's office in early December, however the meeting was cancelled. Excerpts from the letters were to be read on the floor of the House on January 18 and all letters were to be delivered to Speaker Ryan's office on January 19.

Some of the sisters' letters are posted on the Facebook page "[A Fair and Moral Budget: Nuns Write Letters to Paul Ryan.](#)"

February 8 Designated Day of Prayer Against Human Trafficking

February 8 has been designated by the Vatican and the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) as an annual day of awareness raising and prayer against human trafficking.



It is the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, who was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan and Italy. She learned from Canossian sisters that she was created in the image of God and possessed human dignity. Once she asserted herself and refused to be enslaved, Josephine became a Canossian and dedicated her life to sharing her testament of deliverance from slavery and comforting the suffering. She was declared a Saint in 2000.

This year's remembrance highlights the human tragedy of trafficking in migrants and refugees. Forced migration puts many at risk of trafficking both when they move from one country to another and when they are in the country where they have settled.

Migration and Refugee Services' Anti-Trafficking Program of the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and Talitha Kum, the international network of religious dedicated to the abolition of human trafficking, have created materials to help supporters plan prayer and action for the February 8 commemoration.

USCCB has published a [toolkit](#) for National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month and Day of Prayer with suggestions for prayer, education, and political action. Talitha Kum has prepared a Prayer and Reflection Vigil against Trafficking [resource](#) which includes background, scripture readings, and testimony of survivors of human trafficking.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, we ask you to submit a change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members' Information section (password-protected) of the website at lcwr.org/members/lcwr-membership-information.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

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

Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 12 – 17, 2020

LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
August 11 – 15, 2020

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Congress Approves Tax Cut and Jobs Act

The House and Senate approved -- and the president signed -- the controversial Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The legislation cuts corporate and individual income taxes and modifies or eliminates a number of provisions of the tax code including some popular tax deductions. Most of the legislation's tax cuts go to corporations and the richest Americans while eventually raising taxes on more than 90 million working- and middle-class families.

It also dismantles the Affordable Care Act's individual mandate, opens 1.5 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, and will add \$1.4 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years.

Twelve House Republicans joined Democrats in opposing the GOP tax bill which passed the Senate 51-48 along a strict party-line vote. LCWR and many of its peer organizations strongly opposed the measure.

Catholic Climate Covenant Launches Program to Help 'Green' Catholic Organizations

The Catholic Climate Covenant recently developed a new program to complement its education and advocacy work. [Catholic Energies](#) is ready to help parishes, schools, and all Catholic facilities reduce energy consumption and be faithful witnesses to Catholic values. Additional information is available in a [webinar](#) and [article](#).



Getting started with Catholic Energies is simple: completing a one-page application and submitting utility bills is all it takes to get a free facilities audit. Information is available on how to spend less on energy and redirect the savings to other mission-driven activities.



- LCWR statement decrying the Trump administration's misguided decision to end US participation in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants. LCWR (12/5/17)
- Letter to Kristjen Nielsen, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, asking her to extend Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for El Salvador for at least another 18 months. LCWR (12/28/17)
- Faith-based letter to members of Congress urging them to fully fund the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the government agency charged with protecting God's creation and human health, and the Department of the Interior, the department charged with administering our nation's public lands. LCWR (1/4/18)
- Letter to members of Congress asking them to grant the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge the strongest possible protection. LCWR (1/7/18)
- LCWR Statement strongly denouncing the decision by the Trump administration to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Salvadorans. LCWR (1/9/18)
- Letter to members of Congress asking them to oppose any FY 2018 omnibus or other spending measure which includes ideological poison pill policy riders. LCWR (1/10/18)
- Letter to Kirstjen M. Nielson from faith-based organizations expressing dismay about recent reports to consider separating children from their parents at the border. LCWR (1/10/18)



NRVC Participates in International Conference on Vocation and Consecrated Life in Rome

More than 800 religious from around the world took part in a gathering in Rome December 1-3 to prepare for the 2018 synod on young people, faith, and vocation discernment. The gathering, "Vocation Ministry and Consecrated Life: Horizons and Hopes," aimed to confront the challenges of vocation ministry and consider new possibilities, starting with current best practices. The event was sponsored by the Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL). "A kindness and sincerity permeated the entire experience," said the National Religious Vocation Conference executive director Sharon Dillon, SSJ-TOSF. "The deep joyfulness of each person present was held up as a key component in inviting youth and showing what religious life is and why it is so needed today."

NRVC membership has now expanded to 24 different countries.

Prayer Service and Reception Planned in Chicago for National Catholic Sisters Week

Five Chicago-based organizations serving religious life are sponsoring a prayer service for Catholic sisters during National Catholic Sisters Week on Tuesday, March 13 at 5:30 PM at Catholic Theological Union.

The event is sponsored by the National Religious Vocation Conference, Communicators for Women Religious, Religious Formation Conference, Giving Voice, and the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life at Catholic Theological Union.



RFC Begins Implementation of New Strategic Plan

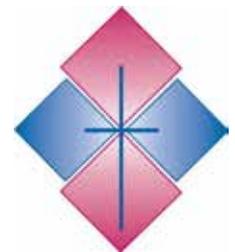
Last year RFC staff, board, and members engaged in a strategic/emergent planning process. Thanks to the work of many, RFC has surfaced a revised strategic plan that includes an updated vision and mission and articulates areas of opportunity and growth. Those interested in learning more about the emerging work of the organization can visit the RFC website (www.relforcon.org) and download an overview of the new strategic plan.

Connect with the RFC on Twitter

Last month the RFC launched a Twitter presence and invites individuals, organizations, and congregations to follow the organization. RFC can be found using the handle @relforcon. This social media presence allows RFC to be engaged in the Catholic conversations on Twitter and connect and network with other thought-leaders and communities.

News from NRRO

The National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) has two reminders for leaders.



The registration deadline for **Moments of Grace: Learning to Companion Community Members with Dementia** is quickly approaching. Scheduled for February 20-21, this workshop offers practical support to assist congregational leaders in providing care and assistance for members with memory loss.

Other than the registration fee and travel costs, all expenses will be covered by the National Religious Retirement Office. [More information](#) is available. The registration deadline is January 31, and space is limited.

The Direct Care Assistance information has been sent to institutes. Religious institutes that have not received this information either by e-mail or US postal mail, are asked to contact Monica Glover in the NRRO office: mglover@uscgb.org or (202) 541-3216. NRRO asks all leaders to adhere to the NRRO deadlines to assure the timely processing of these funding requests.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

Preparing Leaders for the Future

The Collaborative Leadership Development Program (CLDP), a program sponsored by the Leadership Collaborative, is an 18-month integrative process with an intercultural perspective, designed to prepare participants with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to assume leadership positions in community and ministry. The CLDP blends contemplative practices and building relationships with self-growth and spiritual development, through prayerful study and interaction, online forums, mentoring, and coaching.

Eligible applicants are . . .

- Vowed members, co-members, associates of congregations based in the United States or with ministries outside the US
- No older than 60 years of age as of January 1, 2018
- Able to commit to three 4-day sessions: October 14-19, 2018; March 2-7, 2019; and November 16-21, 2019.
- Recommended by congregational leadership

Applications are due **May 31, 2018**.

An invitational letter, brochure, and application form may be obtained by contacting Charlene Diorka, SSJ, program director, at charlenediorka@gmail.com or 215-421-9915.

Good News from Soldarity

A recent communication from the executive director of Solidarity with South Sudan is good news for those who support the work of the Catholic Health Training Institute.

“In late November 2017, 32 students graduated from the Catholic Health Training Institute (CHTI) in Wau, South Sudan -- 20 registered nurses and 12 midwives. All of our CHTI students passed. In fact, 27 out of the 32 gained distinctions and the other five, credits. No passes or fails in the CHTI but there were elsewhere in the country. CHTI had the top scoring trainee nurse in the country (av. 91.25) and the four top scoring midwives.

“There is plenty of anecdotal evidence -- and an almost perfect employment uptake record - that CHTI graduates come out not only on top academically, but with the best skills in clinical practice. This is not surprising given the great facilities they enjoy, the good teaching, the time devoted to supervised clinical practice, the ability to study at night because of our solar lighting, and the good meals and secure accommodation provided.

“Our first students graduated in 2013 -- all nurses. The first midwives graduated in 2014. So far the CHTI has produced 151 graduates of whom 110 are nurses and 41 are midwives. There is still a huge need for more well-trained health professionals in South Sudan.”

It costs \$6500 per year to train a nurse and this includes room, board, tuition, transportation (if necessary), and supervision of clinical practice. Thanks to all of you who have supported this important work. You are making an impact in the poorest country in the world. For more information on how to support this effort contact jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com.

News from the UN

February 6—International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM

Ending the practice of female genital mutilation would have profoundly positive effects across societies as girls and women reclaim their health, human rights, and vast potential. The UN and NGOs affiliated with the UN have learned important lessons about what can be done to end this practice which reflects deep-rooted inequality and constitutes an extreme form of discrimination against women and girls.



February 20—World Day of Social Justice

The UN recognizes that social justice is essential for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. For the United Nations, the pursuit of social justice for all is at the core of its global mission to promote development and human dignity. Social justice lies at the heart of the work of the UN and includes promoting gender equality and the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants, as well as removing barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture, or disability.

United Nations Seeks Global Compacts on Migration and Refugees

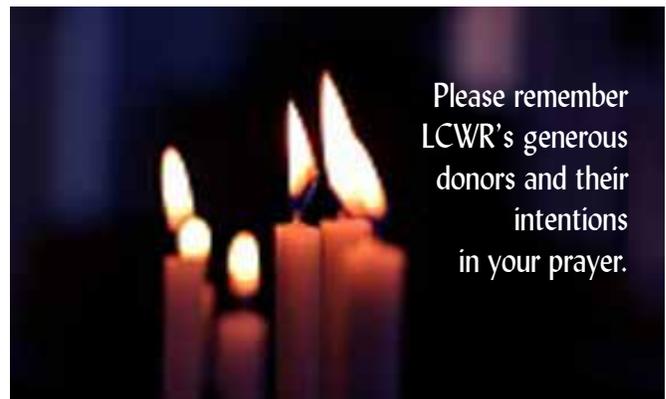
According to International Organization for Migration (IOM) Director General William Lacy Swing in these times of the unprecedented movement of people around the world, it has become clear that global leaders must focus on making migration safe and legal rather than trying to halt the flow of people fleeing conflicts, drought, and poverty. In fact, world leaders from Pope Francis to United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have noted that solidarity with migrants has never been more urgent.

On September 19, 2016 the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the [New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants](#), a landmark political declaration that is directed at improving the way in which the international community responds to large movements of refugees and migrants, as well as to protracted refugee situations.

Negotiations are now underway that will lead to the adoption of a [Global Compact for Migration](#) (GCM) at an international conference in 2018. The agreement to move toward this comprehensive framework means that migration, like other areas of international relations, will be guided by a set of common principles that will lead to universal guidelines on the treatment of migrants in vulnerable situations.

Work is also being undertaken by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to develop a [Global Compact on Refugees](#) (GCR) for adoption by the General Assembly. The aim is to achieve a more equitable sharing of the burden and responsibility for hosting and supporting the world's refugees. The GCR will flesh out the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) articulated in the New York Declaration with specific actions to ease pressure on host countries, enhance refugee self-reliance, expand access to third-country solutions, and support conditions in countries of origin for return in safety and dignity.

Unfortunately, on December 3, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson announced that the United States was ending its participation in the UN process to develop the GCM. The administration objects to the New York Declaration's commitment to "strengthening global governance" and to a number of policy goals that are, according to Secretary Tillerson, "inconsistent with US law and policy" and "could undermine the sovereign right of the United States to enforce our immigration laws and secure our borders."



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