

Update

A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

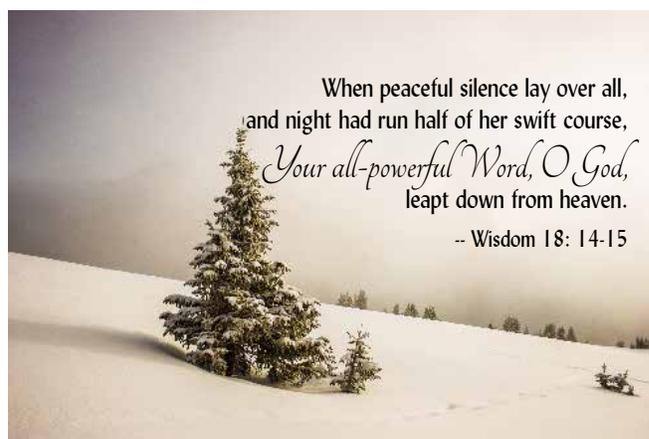
January 2018

LCWR Elects New National Board

In a conference-wide election, LCWR selected nine women religious to serve as members of the LCWR national board. They are: Rita Cammack, OSF; Janice Cebula, OSF; Susan Durkin, OSU; Yesenia Fernandez, MGSps; Elise Garcia, OP; Eileen Haynes, SCL; Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS; and Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN.

The new board will take office on January 1, 2018 and will hold its first meeting in February in Tucson, Arizona.

LCWR thanks those members who are serving on the current board and whose term ends on December 31: Rosemary Brennan, CSJ; Carol Wagner, RDC; Kathryn Clauss, IHM; Rose Marie Jasinski, CBS; Leona Bruner, SSF; Marian Durkin, CSA; Ginger Downey, OLVN; Maria Hughes, ASC; Theresa Sandok, OSM; Jan Renz, ASC; Marilyn Geiger, OSF; Marilyn Springs, IWBS; Jan Ginzkey, OSB; Judith Dieterle, SSL; and JoAnn Showalter, SP.



May the whole world feel the strength and power of God's presence with us this sacred season.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of our members, associates, and friends for a blessed Christmas and peaceful new year.

Presidents, National Board and Staff of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious

Farewell Message from Joan Marie Steadman, CSC

As my ministry with LCWR concludes I am profoundly grateful to you for the opportunity to have served you and shared in LCWR's mission and call. The past three years have been a blessing, and my life has been changed through this experience. The charism of religious life is continuing to unfold, finding expression among God's people in the times, places, and cultures where we live and minister -- making the Gospel come alive in our current global reality. As we embrace the intercultural reality that is integral to our identity as women religious, church, society, and global community, our lives will be transformed and enriched. I will hold you in my heart and my prayer as the days ahead unfold. God can and will "do infinitely more that we can ask or imagine" as we respond to the call to be the presence of Love. May the gifts of joy and peace be yours as our lives are touched by all who long to see the face of God revealed in mercy and compassion. (Joan Marie completes her tenure as LCWR executive director on December 31.)



From the LCWR Presidency

Faith in and Hope for Human Dignity

by Teresa Maya, CCVI — LCWR President

What a short Advent! Christmas is already upon us, yet the invitation remains to prepare by confirming our faith in the Incarnation and by kindling our hope in the fulfilment of its promises. Advent reminds us that joy is the sign of authentic faith and hope. As we begin the Christmas season I wonder how our lives as women religious have witnessed to our faith and hope. I wonder how they are transformed into joy. I was surprised in my wondering, by our parish priest in the heart of Advent. After the homily he invited a couple celebrating their golden jubilee to stand and renew their marriage vows before the assembly. He had been prodding us to consider where we could find “Good News” in our world today. Where is the Good News already true, already with us? And when the couple had finished their renewal, moving all of us to tears, he said, “This friends, is Good News!”

Suddenly I realized that as women religious we have been “Good News” for a long time. There is joy in our hearts because we have been women of faith and hope. And that friends, is Good News.

With the rest of the country, I have watched in disbelief as one after another media mogul, business leader, newscaster, or political figure resigns as a result of accusations of misconduct with women. I have watched the “#MeToo” campaign grow in reach and significance until *Time* magazine named the “The Silence Breakers” the 2017 Person of the Year. Why now? What took so long? How will this change our institutions and our relationships? Could we be witnessing a threshold in the respect of the dignity of women, and other powerless people?

Perhaps this is the result of years of witnessing to the Good News -- of the women religious in this country



Perhaps, the faith in and hope for the dignity of women that has been a hallmark of our conference helped get this country to this threshold.

alongside other movements and groups. Perhaps, the faith in and hope for the dignity of women that has been a hallmark of our conference helped get this country to this threshold.

At this time, we are obligated to recognize the faith of all the leaders of LCWR who never gave up the hope that women would be treated with the dignity of all human beings. This is good news! As more and more women feel encouraged to share their story, empowering others, we hear the echoes of the prophecy of our own conference. The words of leaders, like Theresa Kane, RSM who more than 25 years ago called us into this future: “Let us fearlessly, joyously and enthusiastically forge ahead.”^[1] And ahead we are, and there is much to rejoice about because we have been faithful bearers of Good News.

The joyful discovery that our faithfulness in many subtle and varied ways has contributed to this breakthrough of respect for human dignity ushers in Christmas joy. The path ahead remains unclear, as always, but we know in hope

that a new way of right relationship awaits. Here and there I hear concern about what right relationship will look like: How are we going to relate? What is the place of humor? What does a respectful compliment look like? No one knows, but that is why Advent and Christmas remind us the Good News is not finished yet -- we are called to fearless hope in the promises of Christ.

And then, complete joy will be ours!

Merry Christmas, sisters. We celebrate your steadfastness.

Endnote

1. “To Speak the Truth in Love,” Theresa Kane, RSM, *Spiritual Leadership in Challenging Times*, Orbis Books, 2014

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.

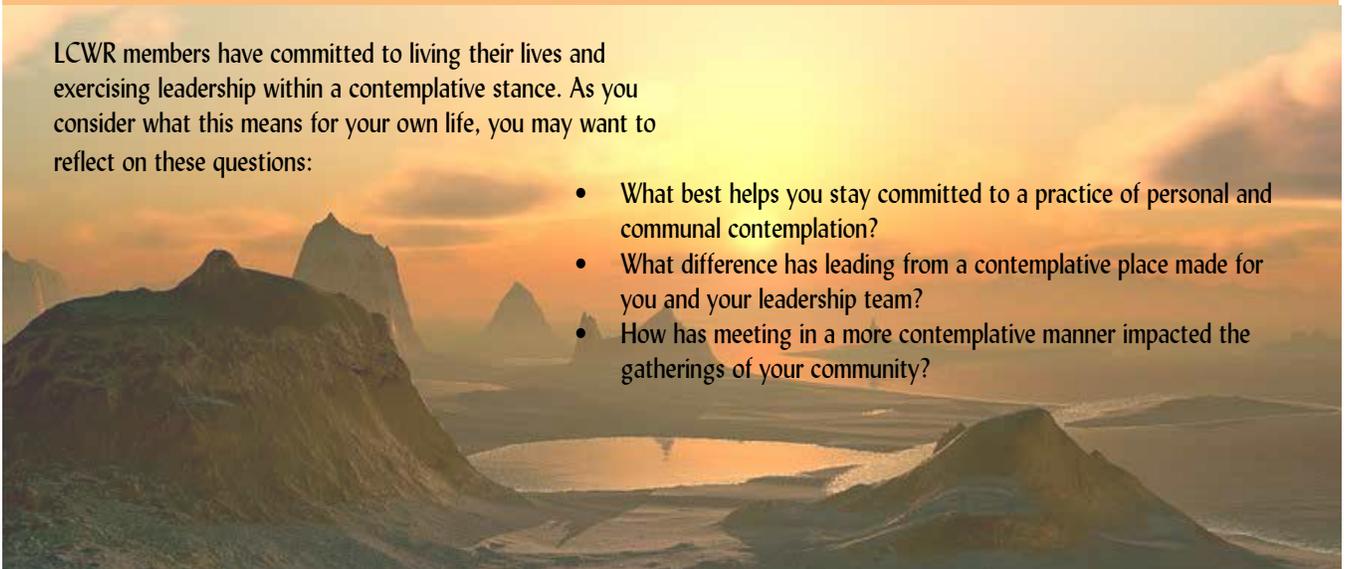
New leaders and new leadership teams are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. This workshop has proven invaluable to new and returning leaders. [Registration materials and additional information are available on the LCWR website.](#) Some scholarship monies are available for assistance with registration fees. More information on scholarships can be obtained by contacting Chris Beckett, SCN at cbeckett@lcwr.org.



EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION

LCWR members have committed to living their lives and exercising leadership within a contemplative stance. As you consider what this means for your own life, you may want to reflect on these questions:

- What best helps you stay committed to a practice of personal and communal contemplation?
- What difference has leading from a contemplative place made for you and your leadership team?
- How has meeting in a more contemplative manner impacted the gatherings of your community?





Meeting at the LCWR national office (seated) Marie McCarthy, SP; Sr. Alice Jacan; Sr. Margaret Kubanze, Joseph Sentongo; (standing) Joan Marie Steadman, CSC; Kathleen Mahoney; Dan Lauer; and Annmarie Sanders, IHM

LCWR Welcomes Visitors from Uganda

Kathleen Mahoney and Dan Lauer of the GHR Foundation accompanied three members of the Association of Religious of Uganda (ARU) to the LCWR national office in early December. The ARU representatives came for a conversation about how both conferences serve religious and to share about its new project, Catholic Care for Children in Uganda (CCCU).

CCCU aims to strengthen congregations with a mission to care for vulnerable people and to do so in ways that lead to better outcomes for orphans and other at-risk children. The project plans to educate Catholic stakeholders on the new Ugandan legislation regarding the move to deinstitutionalize care for orphaned children, equip religious with critical social work skills, develop and implement a child protection policy, and support Catholic care institutions as they take steps to meet new standards and eventually migrate to family- and community-based care models for orphaned children.

The ARU visitors were Sr. Margaret Kubanze, ARU secretary general; Sr. Alice Jacan, an attorney and the coordinator of CCCU; and Joseph Sentongo, an information and communications technology expert and the data manager for CCCU.

The GHR Foundation is helping to support the CCCU project.

LCWR Participates in Planning for the Leadership Collaborative



Members of the Leadership Collaborative board and staff meet in Baltimore: (front) Rita Waters, RSM (staff); LCWR member Joan Gallagher, CSJ; Deb Troillet, RSM; Charlene Diorka, SSJ (staff); and Teresa Posakony; (back) LCWR associate Patty Johnson, CSJ; Sandy Prucha, RSM (staff); Vicki Wuolle, CSA (staff); LCWR associate Ellen Dauwer, SC; and LCWR staff Annmarie Sanders, IHM

LCWR is a participant in the Leadership Collaborative, a working group of women's religious congregations and organizations committed to developing the capacity for transformational leadership among the younger generations of women religious and their associates.

At a recent meeting of the Leadership Collaborative's board and staff, the group finalized plans for the governance of the collaborative. They also reviewed plans for how the organization will continue to serve those participating in or who have completed leadership development programs, how it will continue to incorporate the intercultural realities of US religious life into its work and programs, and how it might collaborate with entities in other countries also interested in the leadership development of young religious.

Leaders are encouraged to take advantage of the offerings of the Leadership Collaborative for their members and associates age 60 and younger.

Global Sisters Report Publishes Conversation with UISG and LCWR Leaders

As part of its annual planning process for topics to cover in the coming year, the *Global Sisters Report* staff recently participated in a videoconference conversation with LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI and LCWR executive director Joan Marie Steadman, CSC, as well as UISG executive secretary Pat Murray, IBVM.

An edited version of the conversation which covered topics related to the global sisterhood as well as speculations for what is ahead in 2018 is available on the GSR website and is entitled “UISG, LCWR leaders discuss ministry to young people, interculturality and the future.”

An article about the conversation by GSR editor Gail DeGeorge entitled, “Multicultural is not intercultural: GSR talks to sister leaders” is also available.

US Catholic Community Delivers Climate Change Letter to President Trump and Congress

The leaders of 161 Catholic colleges and universities, religious congregations, national organizations, and healthcare providers, serving people and communities in every state of the nation, issued a letter to President Trump and the US Congress in support of climate change science, funding, and international policy negotiations. The letter was organized by Catholic Climate Covenant.



In the letter, Catholic leaders outlined the church’s longstanding commitment to care for creation and to act on widely-accepted climate change science. The leaders collectively urged President Trump and members of Congress to take three specific actions:

1. Fund the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC);

2. Meaningfully participate in the deliberations of the UNFCCC; and
3. Honor US commitments to the Green Climate Fund.

In signing the letter, LCWR president Teresa Maya, CCVI said: “Women religious are keenly aware of the threat climate change poses to God’s creation, especially to those who are most vulnerable. We believe that we are called to live in right relationship with all of creation and we know that each of us has a responsibility to cooperate with God to protect our common home. We call on President Trump, members of Congress, and all Americans to work together to address the existential threat of climate change.”

Two Spaces Available for January LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

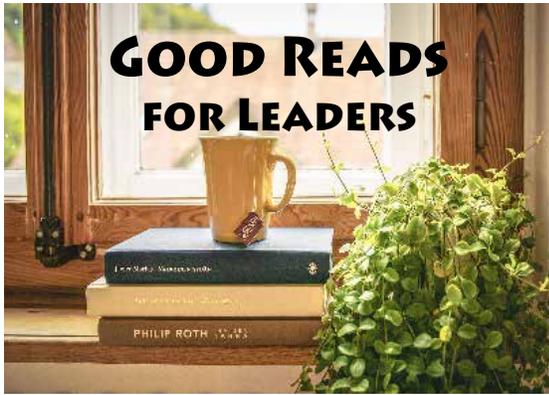
Due to cancellations, there are two spaces now available for the 2018 LCWR Leading from Within Retreat to be held from **January 14 to 19** in Tucson, Arizona at the Redemptorist Retreat Center. Anyone interested in registering is asked to contact Carol Glidden at 301-588-4955.



Order Upcoming Occasional Papers

Orders for the Winter 2018 issue of *Occasional Papers* must 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.



Living Mission Interculturally by Anthony J. Gittins, CSSp Liturgical Press, Collegeville MN, 2015

Recommended by Patricia Flynn, RSM

Theologian and anthropologist Anthony J. Gittins offers a compelling assessment of contemporary religious life in the opening chapter of his book, *Living Mission Interculturally*: “[W]ithout the tectonic shift from international to intercultural, there will be no viable future for international religious orders.” (Gittins, 2). Gittins is also clear that the motivation for this shift cannot be mere survival but must be rooted in fidelity to our fundamental mission as religious: to follow Jesus is to embrace interculturality in our community life and in our ministries as our deepest reality and as our public witness to a divided world.

Gittins brings the resources of the social sciences, as well as the riches of theology, scripture, and the tradition of religious life to his subject: the centrality of culture to our self-understanding, our communal relationships, and our expression of faith. While at times the theoretical explanations may be dense, Gittins provides short, focused chapters accompanied by explanatory charts and diagrams, and questions for continued reflection meant to encourage interaction and response.

Written with international religious communities in mind, Gittins’ work has much to say to other audiences as well. Religious congregations engaged in re-structuring will be helped by his analysis of cultural tensions around the acceptance of “the other” and the competencies needed to reconcile the inevitable differences through mutual respect and intentional commitment. Congregational leaders and new membership personnel will profit from Gittins’ examples of the cultural aspects

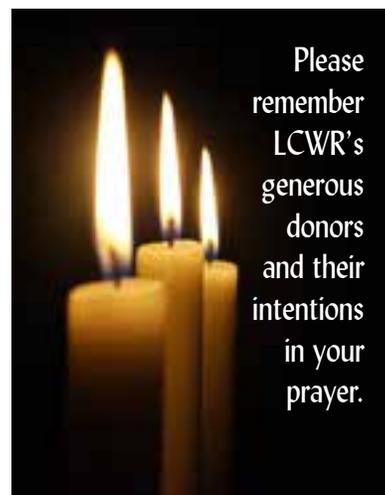
of incorporation practices and by his description of the movement from a stance of assimilation to one of radical welcome, with all that requires from both the congregation and the new member. Regardless of the context, Gittins is optimistic that intercultural living, while challenging, is possible and is an invitation to a new and necessary form of religious life.

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 Annmarie Sanders, IHM for more information (asanders@lcwr.org).

Pope Francis Condemns Nuclear Weapons

In November 2017 the Vatican hosted a conference entitled Prospects for a World Free from Nuclear Weapons and for Integral Disarmament. The gathering was a unique opportunity for civil society, church leaders, Vatican representatives, policy makers, and others to discuss the next steps toward freeing the world of nuclear weapons as part of integral human development.

During the conference, Pope Francis strongly condemned nuclear weapons: “Weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons, create nothing but a false sense of security. They cannot constitute the basis for peaceful coexistence between members of the human family.” More information about [the pope’s address](#) is available on the [Pax Christi International website](#).



LCWR Comments on US Withdrawal from UN Negotiations on Migration

A statement released by LCWR called President Trump's December 3 announcement that the United States was withdrawing from negotiations on the United Nations' Global Compact on Safe, Regular, and Orderly Migration misguided and yet "another example of the president's attempts to wall off this nation and subvert its values." The statement characterized the action as a further "retreat from US leadership in the global community." The Trump administration had already withdrawn the US from the UN Paris Climate Accords and UNESCO.

The move by the Trump administration came just two days before a United Nations conference on migration in Mexico slated to review information gathered during the consultation phase of the design of the global compact. The UN hoped that the gathering of government and civil society actors would move the international community one step closer to the publication of a compact in time for adoption by the UN General Assembly in September 2018.

The United States had been participating in the development of the compact since the Obama administration's decision to join the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants with all 193 UN member states in September 2016. The New York Declaration reaffirmed the importance of the international refugee regime and reaffirmed the commitment of UN member states to strengthen and enhance protections for people on the move. It paved the way for the anticipated adoption of two new global compacts in 2018: a global compact on refugees and a global compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration.



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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





Thousands Rally in DC for a Clean Dream Act and Protections for TPS Holders

Thousands of immigrants, Dreamers and their supporters rallied across from the US Capitol in Upper Senate Park on December 6. Delegations came to DC from across the country. Most were Dreamers; many were family, friends, and co-workers. They came in solidarity to raise their voices to demand that Congress pass a clean Dream Act before the end of the year and that lawmakers find a legislative solution for the 330,000 Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders that would allow them to remain in the United States.

Following the rally the estimated 10,000 protestors marched to the Capitol where 181 dreamers, faith leaders, immigrants' rights partners, and allies sat down on the Senate steps and risked arrest. Participants in the civil disobedience action included Marie Lucey, OSF, Franciscan Action Network; Eli McCarthy, CMSM; Gerry Lee, Maryknoll Office of Global Concern; and Scott Wright, Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach.

Despite the March 5 deadline set by President Trump, everyday 122 Dreamers lose their DACA protections and become eligible for deportation to countries they hardly know and have never been their homes. The vast majority of Americans believe that these young people should be allowed to stay in the United States with their families and continue their journey toward the American Dream, including 34 Republican members of Congress who recently signed a letter supporting Dreamers.

There is now a majority in both houses of Congress who are ready to enact legislation to protect Dreamers. Just two hurdles remain before Congress can act. Speaker Paul Ryan and Majority Leader Mitch McConnell must bring the Dream Act to the floor of their respective houses for a vote.

Pope Francis Highlights Plight of Migrants in January | World Day of Peace Message

Pope Francis's message for the 51st World Day of Peace invites Catholics to embrace those who endure perilous journeys and hardships in order to find peace. He urges people of faith to turn a "contemplative gaze" towards people on the move, opening their minds and hearts to the "gaze of faith which sees God dwelling in their houses, in their streets and squares."

In his New Year's Day peace message, Pope Francis points to the root causes of forced migration including all kinds of violence: war, conflict, genocide, ethnic cleansing, poverty, lack of opportunity, and environmental degradation.

He identifies four "mileposts for action" that must be met if migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and trafficked persons are to find peace. He challenges Catholics and all people of good will to: welcome people on the move, "expanding legal pathways for entry"; defend "the inviolable dignity of those who flee"; promote "the integral human development of migrants and refugees"; and integrate migrants and refugees allowing them to "participate fully in the life of society that welcomes them."

The USCCB has created a [two-page handout](#) that summarizes [the full-text of the pope's message](#) and includes suggestions for prayer and action.

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.



- Endorsement of Senator Chris Van Hollen's bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to Temporary Protective Status (TPS) recipients from certain countries who meet specified eligibility requirements. LCWR (11/16/17)
- Endorsement of the Victims of Crime Protection Acts which would eliminate the arbitrary U Visa cap of 10,000 per year, institute a statutory timeline for applicants to receive much-needed work authorization, and prohibit US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) from targeting undocumented immigrants who have come forward to report crimes and cooperate with law enforcement in investigations and prosecutions. LCWR (11/16/17)
- Amicus brief submitted on behalf of faith-related organizations to the US Court of Appeals Fourth Circuit in support of the appeal from the International Refugee Assistance Project. LCWR (11/17/17)
- Amicus brief submitted on behalf of faith-related organizations to the U.S. Court of Appeals Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in support of the appeal from the International Refugee Assistance Project. LCWR (11/22/17)
- Interfaith letter to Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer opposing the Senate version of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which violates faith values as well as tax fairness and fiscal discipline. LCWR (11/27/17)
- Endorsement of Bread for the World Institute's 2018 Hunger Report. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (11/27/17).
- Letter from national religious leaders to members of Congress urging them not to allow drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to raise revenues to cover the tax cuts in the Senate's tax bill. Joan Marie Steadman, CSC (11/28/17)
- Statement of opposition to the tax bills currently moving through Congress by Catholic religious leaders. LCWR (11/29/17)
- Letter to President Trump urging him to reject any proposals to diminish the size and protections for national monuments, including Bears Ears, Cascade-Siskiyou, Gold Butte, Grand Staircase-Escalante, Katahdin Woods and Waters, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Pacific Remote Islands, Rio Grande Del Norte, and Rose Atoll National Monuments. Ann Scholz, SSND (12/1/17)
- Letter to members of Congress urging them to address the critical year-end agenda including taking action to protect the most vulnerable among us, to treat all people fairly and to invest responsibly in our shared future. LCWR (12/6/17)
- Letter from organizations that are comprised of, represent, and advocate on behalf of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) holders requesting the immediate publication of the Federal Register notices associated with the TPS determinations for Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti. LCWR (12/5/17)
- Letter to Senator Hoeven, chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, asking him to take leadership in requiring a coordinated and directed response to protect the safety of Native communities by moving forward Savanna's Act (S. 1942) to protect Native communities from human trafficking. LCWR (12/8/17)
- Letter to Congress urging members to carry out their responsibilities to address urgent priorities including: continued health care coverage for our children and all low and moderate income people; emergency relief from natural disasters; legal status for the Dreamers and other immigrants with Temporary Protected Status; lifting appropriations caps to prevent serious underfunding of vital programs; and full-year funding for FY 2018. LCWR (12/5/17)
- 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)



Additional information on three items below is available at NRVC.net.

NEW WORKSHOP

The Roots of Racism: Implications for Candidate Assessment and Integration into Vowed Communal Life
February 18-21, 2018

In this challenging time of political polarization, racially-charged rhetoric, and shocking violence, the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is hosting a gathering in San Antonio, Texas, for contemplative dialogue and discernment on how these signs of the times impact vocation ministry. How are we, as leaders, called to an even deeper conversion, reconciliation, and transformation? The Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) will provide a welcoming, safe space to engage in the often difficult conversations about race and racism that will look at how all are called to even deeper conversion, reconciliation, and transformation. 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.

New Ministry Position

NRVC is seeking an experienced professional ministerial leader with a strong background in event planning and communications. This newly created position, program and communication coordinator, will provide administrative and clerical support to the director of member relations and services. Resumes are due by January 12, 2018.

New Resources Available

Two popular NRVC brochures have been updated: Ten Questions Parents Ask and Ten Questions People Ask. These resources are great give-aways at vocation fairs, parishes, and other events or used in orientation programs for employees, volunteers, and board members who need accurate information about religious life. The brochures are available through NRVC.



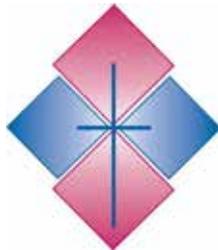
2018 RFC Programs Open for Registration

ForMission: a 2-year skill-building and study program for women and men vowed religious preparing to serve and/or are serving in their congregation's ministry of initial/ongoing formation. Registration is now open for new applicants for the initial residential session, "Mission and Religious Life in the 21st Century" at Catholic Theological Union, Chicago, IL, May 31 – June 8, 2018. Orientation for the new class (2018-2020) begins May 31. The registration/application deadline is April 20, 2018. Contact RFC program director, Connie Schoen, OP, cschoen@relforcon.org for 2018 application materials.

Life Commitment Program: Eight-day interactive encounter – dialogue – reflection – immersion experience for women and men actively discerning or preparing for perpetual profession of vows. The schedule includes input on the vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience in the context of "Religious Life as a Prophetic Enterprise in the 21st Century" along with peer-supported daily prayer, Eucharist, discussion, reflection, and leisure. The 2018 Life Commitment Program will be held at Marillac Center, Leavenworth, KS, July 16-24. The registration/application deadline is June 1, 2018. Contact RFC program director, Connie Schoen, OP, at address above for 2018 application materials.

News from the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO)

Application materials for **Direct Care Assistance** will be sent to religious institutes in early January. Whether or not an institute is applying for funding, the application must be completed. The information assists the NRRO in compiling a comprehensive database of retirement needs and funding among US religious institutes. Any leader who does not receive the application, is asked to call the NRRO office at 202-541-3215.



Back by popular demand, **Moments of Grace: Learning to Companion Community Members with Dementia**, will be offered by the NRRO on February 20-21, 2018, at the San Damiano Retreat in Danville, California. This workshop provides practical approaches to assist congregational leaders in providing care and assistance for members with dementia. Participants pay a registration fee and travel costs; other expenses will be covered by the NRRO. Additional information is available at www.usccb.org/about/national-religious-retirement-office/resources/upload/Dementia-Workshop.pdf.

Catholic Consumers Weigh in on Slave-Free Seafood Label

Too often, consumers are not given the information they need to make moral purchasing decisions. The Coalition of Catholic Organizations against Human Trafficking (CCOAH), of which LCWR is a member, intends to ask seafood producers, distributors, and retailers to make public, through package labeling, their efforts to fight human trafficking in their supply chains. CCOAH believes that most consumers care about the supply chains of the products they buy, and that when given the opportunity, would chose to buy slave-free seafood.



To support this ask, CCOAH distributed a survey to its networks. More than 2,200 people responded. The results showed that over 99 percent of consumers want companies to take steps to engage in ethical and humane business practices, 98 percent want their seafood products to be labeled, and 97 percent said labels would influence their purchasing decisions.

The survey was a follow up to the [2016 Lenten postcard campaign](#) when CCOAH and their members mailed 15,000 postcards to US seafood retailers, Starkist and COSTCO, urging them to examine their supply chain and commit to a product free of the taint of slave labor. The survey data will be analyzed and referenced in future dialogue with seafood supply chain shareholders including the National Fisheries Institute.

Support LCWR Through the Purchase of Cards



LCWR has produced a set of 10 greeting cards based on the insights of its members that were voiced during LCWR assembly deepening group sessions.

Priced at just \$10.00 for the set of 10, these folded cards make great gifts and are a means of sharing ideas about contemplation, communion, and Gospel-centered living. All proceeds from the sale of cards go toward supporting the work and mission of LCWR. [Cards may be purchased online](#). For more information, contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

A Light Shines in the Darkness and the Darkness Cannot Extinguish It

There is a lot of darkness in our world these days and especially in South Sudan. I need not dwell on the ravages of war, hunger and displacement experienced by the South Sudanese and many others at this time.

Into this darkness, Light has come. Religious from around the world, gathered in community as Solidarity with South Sudan, are bringing the Light of Hope and Peace to people who know only the ravages of war.

With your support of prayer, personnel, and financial resources, Solidarity with South Sudan continues to train teachers, registered nurses, and certified mid-wives. They are also caring for nearly 6000 displaced at Riimenze and, at the same time, training local farmers in sustainable agricultural methods through workshops, employment, and even radio programs. The Solidarity pastoral team offers trauma-healing and nonviolence

training while also developing diocesan pastoral teams at the Good Shepherd Peace Center near Juba. The fact that armed factions have not breached these institutions is testimony to the respect and gratitude that even these armies and militias have for the work of Solidarity with South Sudan.

On behalf of Solidarity and the people of South Sudan, I thank you for your support of this important work undertaken by religious from around the world at the invitation of the funding organizations, UISG, and USG. Blessings on you and your congregation during this Advent and Christmas season. May we continue to be Light and Hope for those living in darkness.



Even in the midst of pain and suffering, there is celebration and joy in South Sudan! (Photo by Paul Jeffrey)