



July 2020

Reflecting on the Signs of the Times A Message from LCWR's Officers

The image of George Floyd's murder lives forever in our personal, national, and global cellular memory and will not permit us to wrestle free. The horizontal lynching carried out by a genuflection-like posture sickens our humanity, stymies our consciousness, and shocks our individual and collective soul.

The sin of racism cries out for confession. The scourge of racism screams for healing. The suffering from racism pleads for justice. The silence about racism demands an end. The supremacy of white privilege that creates racism lies bare for all to see. And the system of racism exposes its faulty foundation, and immoral institutionalization. The eradication of racism severs the powers that bind us and empowers us to challenge policies, procedures, protocols, and politics.

May we delve deep into our own role of racist complicity and commit to our role in healing injustices, furthering equality and furthering reconciliation efforts. The current racial uprising in our homeland sounds a clarion call to women religious. It is in the DNA of religious life to witness the gospel values we watched Jesus live and the vocation we profess to live for the life of the world.

As we journey to assembly 2020, traveling together in this pandemic within a pandemic, we pray that "God's Infinite Vision" impels us as individuals, congregations, and as LCWR, to contemplate and discern "Our Journey to Borders and Beyond" that will free us to respond to the signs of these times with fidelity, courage, and hope.

We look forward to the experience of a virtual LCWR assembly and are grateful to our partners at Nix Conference & Meeting Management for creating a venue for us to meet in this way. The shift from an in-person gather-

ing to a virtual platform invites all involved to a learning curve beyond anyone's immediate horizon. The energy, enthusiasm, and expertise in working to create this kind of sacred cyberspace reminds us of the porous borders, integrative partnerships, and the necessity of being technologically astute for navigating the future already present.

May our 2020 assembly be a time that blesses all those who participate by the way we gather, the willingness we bring, the witness we bear and the Word we speak to a weary nation and world.

Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ, President; Elise D. Garcia, OP, President-Elect; Sharlet Wagner, CSC, Past-President; Carol Zinn, SSJ, Executive Director

Assembly 2020 Registration

Space is limited to 1000.
Members and associates are encouraged to register soon.



Election of LCWR Officers (for LCWR Members)

All LCWR members should have received a message from the LCWR National Office on June 5 with a link to a ballot by which to vote for the LCWR president-elect and for board members.

Information on the nominees can be found on the private side of the LCWR website.

Votes must be cast by June 26.

From the LCWR Presidency

Let Us Be Living Sankofas

Sharlet Wagner, CSC — LCWR Past President

While I was living in Ghana I discovered the rich world of symbol in that country's history and culture. One of the Ghanaian symbols that spoke to me deeply was the Sankofa, a word meaning literally, "Go back and get it." The Sankofa (pronounced SAN-koh-fah) symbol is a bird with an egg held gently in its beak. The bird's feet and body are facing forward, while its head is turned, looking backward.

The symbol is one that encourages us to look back and examine our past and to carry forward those treasures that will help us in building our future. This column is my last as a member of the LCWR presidency. I finished 10 years in congregational leadership last September and will conclude my time in the presidency this August. While my feet are facing forward, I find myself looking backward and considering the many treasures that I carry with me as I move on from leadership in the conference and my congregation.

One of the treasures that I carry forward is a clearer vision of who we are as women religious. My time in leadership has shown me more of our failings and flaws than I ever knew existed, and more of our goodness and grace than I would ever have imagined. In that way, it mirrors recent national events, which have opened our eyes collectively to sin rooted in our society while simultaneously enkindling hope. We see peoples of all races coming together and raising voices in protest, and we have a hope that perhaps this time is different. Perhaps this time we will change.

Events of the past month have led us as a nation and as individuals to pause and do some much-needed soul searching. Seeing the video of police choking the life out of George Floyd as he pleads with them and calls out for his "mama" has finally shocked our collective conscience. I find myself questioning my own racism at a new level and seeing my actions and attitudes through new eyes. Had I been asked as a young sister



whether I felt superior to those of other races and cultures, my answer would have been an emphatic "no!" And I would have believed my denial. And I would have been wrong. And I would be wrong if I made the same denial today. We are all products of our environments and we hold deep-seated and often unconscious assumptions and attitudes. We women religious and our congregations are no less guilty and no less called to examine our consciences and commit to change than are societal institutions and individuals.

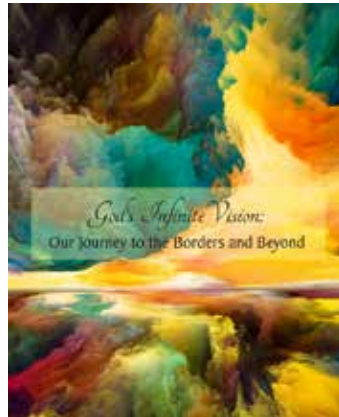
If we truly enter into this journey of self-examination, we will sometimes be at a loss for words, and sometimes stumble as we seek the way forward. A treasure that I carry with me from my time in leadership is the knowledge that it's okay for leaders to lack answers. Elected leaders and members sometimes need to lean on one another, share our vulnerability, trust the wisdom of the group, and together search out our next steps. Shared vulnerability can be a powerful source of strength as we journey together.

Finally, one of the most treasured of the many treasures that I carry forward is that of having come to know, love and respect sisters from various congregations and charisms, with diverse styles of dress and prayer, differing skin tones and accents, embracing multiple spiritualities and one Gospel. My sisters, it has been a privilege and a joy. I thank you wholeheartedly for the opportunity to share this journey in LCWR with you. May we all be living Sankofas, finding the treasures buried within our congregational and individual experiences, and carrying them forward on this sacred journey together.



Preparing for the LCWR Assembly

Information on the plans for the LCWR assembly was sent to all LCWR members, associates, facilitators who work with religious congregations, and guests in early June. The platform being utilized for this online assembly is limited to 1000 participants, so all are encouraged to complete the registration process soon.



Since much of the work of the assembly will be done in conversations with others, the conference is looking for members willing to serve as small group facilitators. Anyone willing to take on this role is asked to indicate this on the registration form.

Pre-Assembly Preparation

For the month of June, all LCWR members and associates are encouraged to reflect on the resource sent on June 1, *Transforming Our Individual and Collective Grief and Trauma for the Sake of the World*. This resource contains suggestions for both personal reflection and collective sharing. Members and associates also received a list of 75-minute Zoom sessions for those who would like to join with others in a contemplative dialogue using the questions provided in the reflection sheet. People may participate in as many sessions as they wish.

On July 1, members and associates will receive another reflection for use during that month. Contemplative dialogue sessions will be offered throughout July as well.

Assembly Orientation for New and Returning Members

On Tuesday, August 11 from 1:00 to 3:00 PM an orientation to the assembly will be held online for leaders who are new to LCWR, recently returned to LCWR, or who have not recently partici-

pated in an LCWR assembly. The orientation provides important information to enable full participation in the assembly. Those interested may register for this session as part of the assembly registration process.

Scheduling Informal Gatherings and Socials During the LCWR Assembly

Many LCWR members take advantage of the days at the assembly to share a meal with friends, gather as a federation, or do something else that strengthens the bonds of connection among them.

While LCWR cannot provide online venues for this to happen, leaders are organizing themselves in creative ways to still stay connected with others using their own videoconferencing accounts. Groups that normally meet may want to consider planning socials and/or meals together online in order to make the assembly days enjoyable, relaxing, and meaningful.

LCWR to Hold Virtual Fall 2020 Regional Meetings

After consultation with the LCWR national board and the 15 regional chairs, the conference will hold all of its fall 2020 regional meetings virtually.

This exercise of caution follows the unfolding situation of COVID-19 and its impact across the country. While the full consequence of current increased infection rates remains to be seen, holding in-person gatherings at this time seems an unnecessary risk. This decision is informed as well by the reality that many senior sisters in motherhouse and administrative facilities are part of the vulnerable population at-risk for infection.

In addition, LCWR has cancelled the Practicing Leadership Workshop scheduled for September.

Following the LCWR assembly, plans will be developed to continue to serve LCWR members with their critical work of leadership, especially as congregations engage in the national discernment on the emerging future of religious life that will begin at the August assembly.

LCWR National Board Meets Online

The LCWR national board met online on May 26 and 27. On the first day, the staff members were present and the 15 region chairs joined the meeting for its first half. During that time the board and staff gave reports about the upcoming LCWR assembly and the national discernment on the emerging future of religious life. The board, region chairs, and staff then met in small groups to provide observations and suggestions.

During the second half of the May 26 meeting, the board and staff discussed reports on LCWR's finances and each of the conference's major committees. The board appointed the following LCWR members to committees:

Finance and Audit Committee

Maureen O'Connor, CSJ
LCWR treasurer & committee chair, two years

Sue Ernster, FSPA
Committee member, three years

Global Concerns Committee

Patty Johnson, CSJ
Committee member, three years

Fran Gorsuch, CBS
Committee member, three years

Donna Marie Gribshaw, CDP
Second term, committee member and chair, three years

Governance Committee

Kathy Brazda, CSJ
Committee member, three years

Maria Iannuccillo, SSND
Second term, committee member, three years

Donna Pollard, OP
Committee member, three years

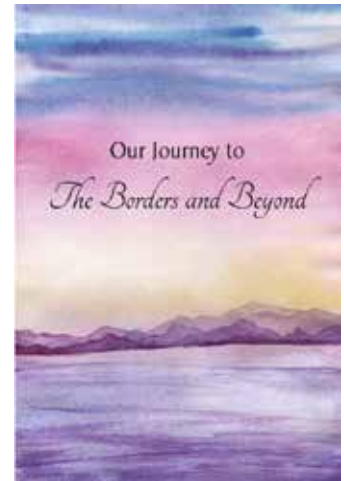
Theresa Sandok, OSM
Second term, committee member and chair, three years

The LCWR board members met in executive session on May 27.

Ordering Summer 2020 Occasional Papers

The summer issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* is in the mail.

Due to a printer overrun, some additional copies are available. Orders for extra copies [may be placed here](#). This next issue, *Our Journey to the Borders and Beyond*, looks at the call to religious in these chaotic and rapidly changing times. What does the world -- in all its changing dimensions -- most need for women religious to be? A highlight of this issue is an interview with the poet, David Whyte.



Members of the LCWR national board, the 15 regional chairs, and the office staff met on May 26

Bishop Hicks to Serve as CCLV Liaison to LCWR

Bishop Ronald Hicks (Chicago) has been appointed by the chair of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations (CCLV) to serve as the committee's liaison to LCWR.



The CCLV is an important venue for the executive directors of the national organizations serving consecrated life, clergy, and vocations to meet for information-sharing, relationship-building, and effective collaboration. This committee meets annually in conjunction with USCCB general session held in November.

Cardinal Tobin formerly chaired this committee and served as the liaison to the three leadership conferences of religious in the United States: the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) and LCWR. In this capacity, the liaison serves as a bridge between the CCLV and the conferences. Bishop James Checchio (Metuchen, New Jersey) is the new chair of the committee and has invited different bishops serving on the CCLV to serve as a liaison to each of the three religious life leadership conferences.

LCWR executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ met online with Bishop Hicks to welcome him to his new role. According to Carol, "The ease of conversation and mutual desire to create a meaningful collaborative relationship was evident and energizing in our conversation. I invited Bishop Hicks to participate in the LCWR virtual assembly and he looks forward to doing so. Welcoming him in person to the women religious of LCWR will have to wait until Orlando in 2021. We look forward to that opportunity as does Bishop Hicks."

Extended Terms of Leadership

With the postponement of chapters due to the pandemic, many leaders have extended their term of office. Any leader who now has an extended term is asked to notify [Carol Glidden](#) with the extension date so that the LCWR database can be updated.

LCWR in the News

The following are some of the places where LCWR was recently in the news:

- A response to the fifth anniversary of *Laudato Si'* by Elise García, OP
[National Catholic Reporters' EarthBeat](#)
- Coverage of the National Day of Mourning and Lament
[Catholic News Service](#)

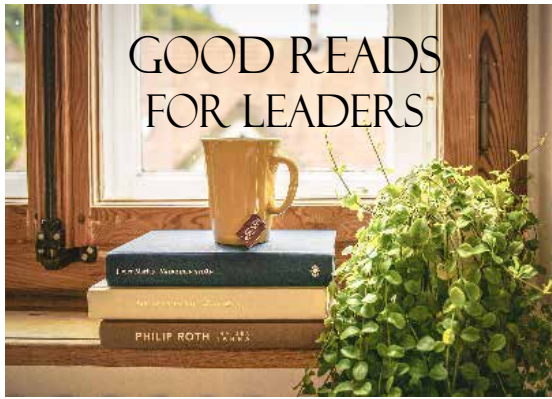
Working Group Forms on Technology Needs for Virtual Assemblies and Chapters

More than 100 LCWR members participated in recent LCWR Zoom conversations about alternate plans for assemblies and chapters. As a result, a working group of women religious with technology expertise has been formed who will provide suggestions about platforms and processes, as well as other information that can assist institutes as they plan virtual gatherings. As soon as this information is generated and reviewed for canonical accuracy, it will be made available to all LCWR members and shared with UISG who is helping to facilitate this same conversation internationally among women religious institutes.



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The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community

by Eric H F Law

Recommended by Sue Dunning, CSJ

Eric H F Law tells us in his book, *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*, that “people’s power perceptions are different because of cultural differences...we need to create an environment that allows people to interact with equal power and therefore redistribute power evenly.” (Chapter 3)

That environment allows people to interact with equal power. Choices need to be made on a conscious level that often contradict our cultural instinct. For instance, as a white member of a diverse group (the Wolf) I am invited to give up power, to humble myself in order to serve, and to explore what Law terms “the spirituality of the cross.” Those of color in a diverse group (the Lambs) are invited to find ways to gather as a critical mass to speak with power as a collective and to explore the “spirituality of the empty tomb.”

One way of giving up power and at the same time claiming power in a mutual way is the process Law calls “Mutual Invitation” in Chapter 9. The leader begins by sharing and then invites the next person to speak who in turn shares and invites another person to share and the process continues. Giving power away and waiting to be invited to speak are ways of practicing the spirituality of the cross.

We are all being invited to become aware of our unconscious attitudes that are obstacles to living peacefully and mutually in the Peaceable Realm of God.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR New Member Orientation to the LCWR Assembly

Online -- 1:00-3:00 PM EASTERN
August 11, 2020

LCWR Assembly

Online
August 12, 13, 14 2020

Leading from Within Retreat

San Pedro Retreat Center
Winter Park, Florida
January 10 – 15, 2021

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center
University of St. Mary of the Lake | Mundelein, Illinois
March 25 — 28, 2021

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida
August 10 — 13, 2021

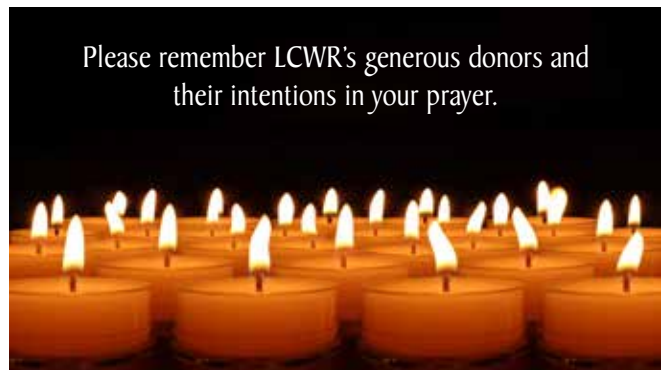
Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center | Tucson, Arizona
January 16 — 21, 2022

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri
August 9 — 12, 2022

Please remember LCWR’s generous donors and
their intentions in your prayer.



The Trump Administration Suspends Protections for Asylum Seekers and Unaccompanied Children

The headlines are shocking enough, but the stories behind

them are even more troubling. According to *ProPublica and the Texas Tribune*, as the nation remains focused on COVID-19, the Trump administration has aggressively begun to rush the deportations of some of the most vulnerable asylum seekers, including children, to countries where they will face the abuse, rape, and murder which forced them to seek safety in the United States.



In response, LCWR and more than 250 legal, faith-based and community organizations who regularly advocate on behalf of asylum seekers, immigrants, and unaccompanied children, wrote to acting director of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Chad Wolf, to “strenuously object to the administration’s exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic as a pretext to implement indefinite, illegal and life threatening restrictions on humanitarian protections at the southern U.S. border.”

Public health experts have concluded that the March 20 order from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which DHS is using to eviscerate congressionally-mandated and treaty-based protections for children, families, and adults seeking safety at the border, “is based on specious justifications and fails to protect public health.” On May 19, CDC extended the much-criticized order indefinitely, fulfilling the administration’s long-sought goal of eliminating these life-saving protections and ending asylum.

In just six weeks, DHS used the CDC order to block and remove at least 21,000 people, including likely thousands of asylum-seekers and more than 1,000 unaccompanied children, expelling them to places where they face risk of kidnapping, rape, and murder, without the legally-required opportunity to seek protection in the United States.

These expulsions blatantly violate US law and treaty obligations to assist those seeking humanitarian

protection. Members of congress have written that the administration’s legal justification is “deeply flawed” and “raises serious questions about ... the Administration’s respect for the rule of law.” The UN Refugee Agency has made clear in legal guidance on COVID-19 that states cannot impose “blanket measure[s]” to block asylum seekers.

The administration cannot disregard federal laws that explicitly recognize the vulnerability of unaccompanied children arriving at the border seeking protection, many of whom are fleeing trafficking or fear persecution. In April, DHS expelled more than 90 percent of children found at the border without a parent or guardian, transferring only 58 to the authority of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Faith Groups Call for Immediate Senate Action on COVID-19

LCWR joined dozens of leaders of faith groups from across the religious spectrum who [released a series of videos](#) urging the Senate to pass their own version of the House of Representatives’ HEROES Act designed to further address the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping both the nation and world. Communities of faith are concerned that the longer the Senate waits to act, the more people will suffer as benefits expire and states are forced to impose severe budget cuts. This will leave those deeply impacted by the COVID-19 economic fallout with little or no safety net.

Multiple studies continue to make clear that across the country, communities of color are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. This includes higher infection rates, hospitalizations, and deaths. On top of that, people of color are also overrepresented in jobs with the most public interactions and those deemed essential. These jobs are especially prone to virus transmission. Recent nationwide demonstrations show policymakers must act immediately to address systemic issues related to racial injustice as well as economic justice.

On March 15, the House of Representatives passed the HEROES Act (H.R. 6800), their fourth such bill to deal with the immediate and long-term fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic collapse. Since that time, as more than 100,000 Americans have lost their lives to the virus and economic and racial strife have further pulled the country apart, the Senate has been slow to do anything.



Women Religious Join the Call for an End to Systemic Racism and White Privilege

More than 40 congregations of women religious have issued statements condemning the police killing of George Floyd and calling for an end to institutional racism and white privilege. Many statements, including LCWR's, begin by acknowledging their own complicity in America's original sin of racism and note that it is a virus every bit as deadly as COVID-19. The statement of the [National Black Sisters' Conference](#) calls for immediate action and specific legislative measures. Some sisters have joined the tens of thousands of protestors in the streets demanding justice and the transformation of policing.

In addition, 10 congregations in New York jointly publicized their support of the LCWR statement by taking out an ad in the Long Island daily, *Newsday*, and in a diocesan newspaper.

The outcry from across the country has prompted legislative action in Washington. On June 8, Congressional Black Caucus Chair Karen Bass (D, CA-37), Senators Corey Booker (D-NJ) and Kamala Harris (D-CA), and House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler (D, NY-10) introduced the bicameral [Justice in Policing Act of 2020](#), a bold and comprehensive approach to hold police accountable, end racial profiling, change the culture of law enforcement, empower black communities, and build trust between law enforcement and communities by addressing systemic racism and bias to help save lives. The legislation would:

- establish a national standard for the operation of police departments;
- mandate data collection on police encounters;
- reprogram existing funds to invest in transformative community-based policing programs;
- streamline federal law to prosecute excessive force and establish independent prosecutors for police investigations.

The Democratic-led House is expected to take up the bill in the coming weeks. While its prospects in the Republican controlled Senate are less certain, Republican leaders have acknowledged the need to address police brutality and promised a bill of their own.



LCWR exercised its voice in the public square through the following actions:

- Letter of thanks to Senators Durbin and Sanders for their leadership in supporting a no-cost stimulus through the International Monetary Fund to provide global relief in this time of pandemic. LCWR (5/17/20).
- Letter to David Malpass, President of the World Bank, asking the bank to immediately end all support for fossil fuels and shift investment to renewable energy. Ann Scholz, SSND (5/18/20)
- Endorsement of identical, bi-partisan bills, House Resolution 902 and Senate Resolution 545, that celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Refugee Act of 1980. LCWR (5/18/20)
- Letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security, Chad Wolf, objecting to plans to separate parents from their children at Dilley, Karnes, and Berks detention centers. Ann Scholz, SSND (5/20/20)
- Statement of solidarity with currently and formerly incarcerated and detained individuals, their loved

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ones, and those charged with their care urging political leaders to make all efforts to ensure the health, safety, and spiritual well-being of those inside, including correctional and detention staff. LCWR (5/20/20)

- Endorsement of the *Protect Our Vote Day of Action*. LCWR (5/20/20)
- Letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf and Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Robert R. Redfield, MD, objecting to the administration's exploitation of the COVID-19 pandemic as a pretext to implement indefinite, illegal and life-threatening restrictions on humanitarian protections at the southern U.S. border. LCWR (5/21/20)
- Letter to Michele J. Sison, US Ambassador to Haiti, Mike Pompeo US Secretary of State, Chad Wolf Acting Secretary U.S. Department of Homeland Security, calling on them to stop deportations to Haiti in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. LCWR (5/22/20)
- Letter urging the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to reject the New England Ratepayers Association's (NERA) petition seeking federal jurisdiction over state net metering programs. LCWR (5/24/20)
- Letter to Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) urging DHS to take immediate steps to halt transfers of individuals in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody between detention facilities and to increase COVID-19 testing at all ICE facilities, including processing centers, privately run facilities, and local jails contracting with ICE. LCWR (5/24/20)
- Letter to Congress urging them to focus on creating jobs with a focus on sustainability and resiliency and to prioritize the needs of communities that are the most marginalized, including communities of color disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. LCWR (5/26/20)
- Partnered with more than 100 national faith leaders to call for a National Day of Mourning and Lament as the nation passes 100,000 lives lost to COVID-19.
- Letter to Congressional leadership urging support of the *Thirty by Thirty Resolution to Save Nature* (H Res. 835 & S Res. 372). LCWR (5/28/20)
- Letter to House and Senate appropriators demanding that any Congressional funding be strictly conditioned on the reversal of enforcement policies and actions that produced the current U.S. Customs and Immigration Service deficit and subverted the agency's core services mission. LCWR (5/29/20)
- LCWR Statement condemning the police killing of George Floyd and calling for an end to systemic racism and white privilege. LCWR (5/30/20)
- Endorsement of House resolution expressing the moral responsibility of Congress to end adult and child poverty in the US LCWR (6/1/20)
- Signed Refugee Council USA's pledge to support World Refugee Day 2020. LCWR (6/1/2020)
- Letter to House and Senate leadership articulating federal policing priorities to address systemic police violence and abuse, and to promote accountability and community-police trust. LCWR (6/3/20)
- Letter to Senate and House leadership encouraging inclusion of global aid, including specific aid for Latin America for health services and food security, in the next COVID-19 package. LCWR (6/3/20)
- Letter to Senator Lindsey Graham urging robust support for foreign assistance, including assistance focused on preventing and mitigating conflict, in the COVID-19 supplemental funding package. LCWR (6/3/20)
- Letter to members of the US House of Representatives urging them to cosponsor and support H.R. 4359, the *Police Exercising Absolute Care with Everyone* or (*PEACE Act*) of 2019, to raise the standards for use of force by law enforcement officers. LCWR (6/4/20)
- Letter to federal, state and local governments decrying the administration's inhuman and unacceptable immigration policies and suggesting policies that protect the dignity of asylum seekers, immigrant children and families, and detainees. LCWR (6/5/20)
- Statement of faith Leaders (HOWO) condemning the killing of George Floyd and calling on Congress to enact long overdue policing reforms and enact laws that reverse policies that perpetuate the racial income and wealth gap. Ann Scholz, SSND (6/6/2020)
- Endorsement of the *Curtailing Insurrection Act Violations of Individual Liberties* (*CIVIL Act*) to reform the *Insurrection Act* and restrict the President's ability to use active duty troops for domestic law enforcement. LCWR (6/8/20)
- Letter to Congress and the White House urging them to take action now to limit the depth and duration of the health and economic crisis by ensuring that the basic food needs of struggling

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LCWR Sign Ons & Letters

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- families and individuals are met. LCWR (6/9/20)
- Letter to Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary of Department of Homeland Security (DHS), urging an end to policies that jeopardize immigrant children's safety and family unity. LCWR (6/11/20)
- Letter to Bank of America urging them to help protect the Arctic Refuge by pledging not to fund drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Carol Zinn, SSJ (6/11/20)

Roses in December Anniversary Celebration Postponed

The "The Roses in December" delegation to El Salvador and Honduras scheduled for late 2020 has been postponed. The current plan is to reschedule for November/December 2021. More information will be shared as plans progress.



Updates from NRRO

Although COVID-19 has impacted the activities of the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) in many ways, it has not interrupted distributions of financial assistance to religious institutes. Recently, NRRO disbursed \$25 million in direct care assistance to 341 institutes across the United States. These allocations, which are made each June, are possible only through the love and generosity of countless US Catholics who give to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection. Communities combine the funds with their own income and savings to meet a host of retirement and eldercare needs.



NRRO encourages use of its [archive of online webinars](#). Just 60-minutes long, these presentations address topics ranging from dementia care to accessing government benefits for senior members. In addition it offers its [Tending the Vineyard](#), a five-part property-planning series with accompanying support materials that offer tips, information, and methodologies for engaging in strategic property planning.



Ministry Position Opening

NRVC is seeking a part-time director of membership with a strong ministerial background in membership cultivation and engagement. Successful candidates need significant experience in vocation ministry and general knowledge of the charisms and mission of US religious institutes. More information and a position description are available [here](#). A resume and letter of interest may be sent to [Maureen Cetera](#). Upon the hiring of a new director of membership, Marge Argyelan will assume the position of the director of database administration.

Summer Institute

The NRVC summer institute begins July 7 with four online learning workshops for vocation ministers. Since registration is near capacity, anyone interested in participating should register soon [here](#). There is an additional \$25 late fee per workshop for registrations received after June 30 due to expedited shipping expenses.

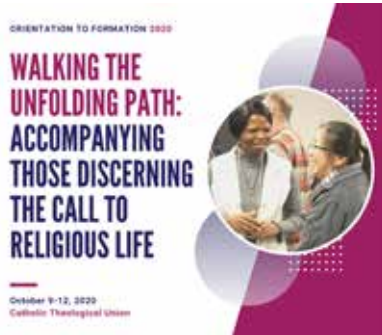
Masks Available at No Cost to Community-Based Organizations

Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are making face coverings widely available in order to limit the spread of COVID-19. The masks, produced and delivered in partnership with USPS and the National Council of Textile Organizations, are being made available to community-based organizations **at no cost** (and while supplies last). Information on the masks and how to order them is [available here](#).



Registration Open for Fall Orientation to Formation Program

The next Orientation to Formation workshop for formation directors and congregation/province leaders will take place October 9-11, 2020 at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, Illinois.



On October 12 an additional day or stand-alone day workshop will be held for congregation and province leaders with formation liaison/oversight responsibilities. Orientation to Formation is specifically designed for formators, mentors, and persons in elected leadership who attend to new members as they make their sacred journey.

Maco Cassetta, CND and Paul English, CSB will serve as facilitator-presenters for the 2020 session.

Registration is now open. Inquiries can be sent to [Connie Schoen, OP](#), program director by email at or by calling the RFC office at 773-675-8362. Registration and additional information are available [here](#).



We commit ourselves to seeking God who beckons to us from a future abundant in grace -- LCWR Call 2015-22

New Religious Archival Resources Available

The Archival Resources for Catholic Collections (ARCC) has [launched a website](#) designed to serve two interconnected purposes. The new site:

- Offers Catholic religious leaders, archivists of Catholic collections and scholars of Catholic history curated information and guidance on aspects of managing and using archival collections and a supportive environment where they can communicate with one another.
- Asks ARCC members to lend their time, talents, creativity, and experience to a working group charged with exploring one of the major challenges facing Catholic archives and proposing best practices and creative solutions that can be implemented by community members.

ARCC's website will be the public face of the outcomes of the discussion taking place on ARCC's Google group. Anyone interested in joining the online discussion may contact [ARCC here](#). ARCC has initiated five working groups already:

- Launching or Improving an Archives
- Educational Resources
- Repository Coordination and Planning
- Raising Visibility
- ARCCs Sustainability and Gatherings

More information may be obtained from ARCC steering committee coordinator [Malachy McCarthy](#).

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.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

Statement of Solidarity with Our African-American Brothers and Sisters

Friends in Solidarity, the US partner to Solidarity with South Sudan, acknowledges the pain of our African American brothers and sisters and deplores the senseless murder of Mr. George Floyd and the other victims of police brutality. We join our voice with the voices of people who recognize that all humans are created equal and that all have equal rights and protections under the law. African Americans have not been afforded these rights and protections due to inequities that are rooted in over 400 years of exploitation and discrimination. We stand with them now and pledge to work to finally right these wrongs and build the Beloved Community envisioned by Dr. Martin Luther King. We will contribute to this effort by working to build the capacity of our African brothers and sisters on the continent where the struggle for justice, peace and human rights continues to dominate the region.

On another note, recently we received a letter from the executive director of Solidarity with South Sudan alerting us to financial concerns brought about by the global pandemic, which is impacting all of us, but especially those living in poorer countries of our world. Some of you may have received this already or seen it in our newsletter. I share this with you knowing that some of you may be able to assist with this special appeal. Thank you for your support and please keep Solidarity and the work being done in South Sudan in your prayers. South Sudan is the last on the list of countries in its preparedness to deal with COVID19! All the more reason to support the training of nurses and midwives so as to improve the country's ability to save lives in the future. More information is available [here](#).

News from the UN

July 18—Nelson Mandela International Day—Every year on the anniversary of Nelson Mandela's birth, the UN joins a call by the Nelson Mandela Foundation to devote 67 minutes of time to helping others, as a way to honor his 67 years of service to humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, an international peacemaker, and the first democratically elected president of a free South Africa.



July 30—World Day against Trafficking in Persons—In 2013 the UN General Assembly held a high-level meeting to appraise progress in the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons. At the meeting, member states also designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons. The resolution declared that such a day was necessary to “raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and for the promotion and protection of their rights.”