

Update

*A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious*

January 2019



▲ LCWR offices are located on the sixth floor of this 12-story office building in downtown Silver Spring, Maryland

► Entrance to the LCWR, RCRI, and FIS suite



LCWR National Office Opens in New Location

On December 8 professional movers relocated the contents of the offices of LCWR, the Resource Center for Religious Institutes, and Friends in Solidarity to their new headquarters. On December 10, the staffs unpacked their boxes, set up the new office space, and resumed their work. Once some additional changes are made, LCWR will take other photos of its new space and share them in *Update* so that the members can see where the conference is now housed.

Christmas Greetings from LCWR



*M*ay no one feel there is no room for them on this Earth.
— Pope Francis

Celebrating the late evening Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City, Pope Francis said Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem brought them to a land "where there was no place for them," adding, "So many other footsteps are hidden in the footsteps of Joseph and Mary. ... We see the tracks of entire families forced to set out in our own day. We see the tracks of millions of persons who do not choose to go away, but driven from their land, leave behind their dear ones." — "Pope likens Mary and Joseph to modern-day migrants," USA Today, December 24, 2017

May this Christmas turn our hearts and our attention to the plight of all people on the move in search of a home.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your loved ones for a blessed Christmas and peaceful new year.
-- The LCWR Presidents, National Board & Staff

All LCWR members and associates are encouraged to visit the offices at any time. The three organizations will also hold an open house on January 15 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM to which all are invited.

LCWR
8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910

From the LCWR Executive Director

Accelerated Grace

by Carol Zinn, SSJ — LCWR Executive Director

As I reflect on the times in which we find ourselves, I've noticed how often people speak about how much there is to do, how quickly time moves, how fast changes occur, and how different these times are from times not too long ago. Intrigued by this, I began to ponder what might be under these experiences that so many people seem to be naming. Surprisingly, I found myself inquiring about speed, pace, velocity, and acceleration. The science of physics eluded me in my earlier years and it has only further distanced itself from me in my later years.

However, my lived experience of daily life, calendar challenges, clock sprints, and countless other realities provided an opportunity to rethink the physics of the soul. Perhaps we are experiencing a time in which a contemplative approach to the physics of the soul invites a deeper awareness of the Mystery of Oneness. And the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, and Ordinary Time might just be the foundation for such a deeper look.

The concepts of pace, speed, velocity, and acceleration are key to a physics of the soul. Pace is speed; speed is the measure at which movement occurs; velocity is the measure of how fast movement occurs in a particular direction; and acceleration is the rate of increase in the change in direction. What I experience in this exercise of physics of the soul is that our current reality (pace) gives rise to speed (transformation) that demands contemplation (velocity) to create the spaciousness for God's grace (acceleration).

It is the velocity and acceleration that matters more than the pace and speed. This makes sense to me as I observe our global, national, and local worlds across the issues of abuse of power, movement of peoples, addiction crises, and cultural divides, to name but a few realities.



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It also makes sense to me as I observe the landscape of our contemporary religious life with all of its complexities: sustaining the mission, furthering the charism, living the life fully and well, inviting new partners, strengthening networks, deepening contemplative skills, embracing the Paschal Mystery rhythm, engaging an emerging future already present, and leaning into the Heart of God, together.

Advent invites us to attend to the current reality (pace) of God-With-Us even as we await the birth anew. Christmas celebrates the Word-Made-Flesh among us as an invitation to transformation (speed) even as we yearn to free ourselves to become God's Word anew. Epiphany reminds us that following the light and returning home by another route of contemplation (velocity) so that all peoples are welcome to join the journey remains the core work of a Gospel life anew. And the shift to Ordinary Time grounds us in the need for God's grace (acceleration) as we return to the dailiness of our lives as religious and our responsibilities as leaders of religious institutes anew. It

is the speed of the change in direction that catches us short. Yet it is precisely this space of acceleration that is our reality.

Perhaps the work of meaning-making at this moment in time is more about velocity and acceleration than it is about pace and speed. Perhaps the core of our work revolves around creating the spaciousness needed to hold the graces already flowing. Clearly the grace of God will always be more than we could ask or imagine. Maybe the next time we find ourselves asking about the pace of life or the speed of activity or the velocity of shifting sands, we might be on the lookout for the acceleration because that is where the grace awaits.

Let us rejoice to be living in such accelerated times.



Registration to Open Soon for the 2019 LCWR New Leader Workshop

The annual New Leaders Workshop will be offered from April 4 to 7, 2019 at the University of St. Mary of the Lake Conference Center in Mundelein, Illinois. This highly popular program features outstanding resource persons, presentations, and case studies that are tailored to the particular challenges of religious life leadership today.

The workshop focuses on the skills and dispositions needed to grow as spiritually-grounded, transformational leaders. Through the use of input, role play, and contemplative engagement participants examine some of the real-life situations and challenges facing leaders today. Topics and themes for each of the days include:

- Transformational Leadership and Contemplative Engagement
- The Dynamics of Leadership: The Changing Face of Leadership
- Mission Now and into the Future

Participants will have multiple opportunities to interact with one another and with the resource persons present, as well as to integrate the workshop learnings into their own congregation realities. Time will also be provided for teams to discuss and plan. Prayer and ritual will be incorporated throughout the days.

The workshop is designed for women religious leaders who have been in office for two years or less – either as first-time leaders, or those returning to leadership. The workshop will be beneficial for anyone in congregation leadership today. However, councils are strongly encouraged to attend as a group, if that is possible. Persons who have attended this workshop comment upon the positive impact it has had on their ministry

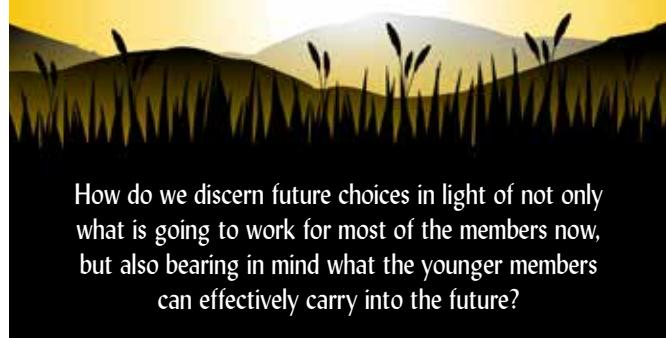
of elected leadership and their experience of working together as a team.

Additional information can be found on the [LCWR website](#). Registration for this workshop will open right after the first of the year and is limited to the first 100 who register. Some financial assistance is available for attendance.

Spaces Available for LCWR's Practicing Leadership Workshop

There are still a few places available for the LCWR Practicing Leadership Workshop which will be offered March 4 to 6, 2019 at the Bon Secours Conference and Retreat Center in Marriottsville, Maryland. This workshop is filling up fast and the deadline for accepting registrations is January 25, 2019. [A full workshop description and registration form](#) can be found on the LCWR website.

EMERGING QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION AND CONVERSATION



How do we discern future choices in light of not only what is going to work for most of the members now, but also bearing in mind what the younger members can effectively carry into the future?



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Editor: Annmarie Sanders, IHM
8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Phone: 301-588-4955 Fax: 301-587-4575
E-mail: asanders@lcwr.org. Website: lcwr.org

LCWR Emergent Planning Process Begins Broad Consultation

As LCWR continues its emergent planning process, it has begun a wide consultation process with people who can provide various perspectives on how LCWR might consider its next iteration as a conference.

The purpose of the planning process is to discern how LCWR will continue to respond to the signs of the times and offer leaders of congregations of women religious the resources needed to lead in these evolutionary and transformational times.

Those with whom LCWR is consulting come from the following sectors:

- Past presidents and executive directors of LCWR
- Facilitators and consultants working with religious congregations
- Religious from various ethnic backgrounds
- National organizations serving religious life
- Organizations serving younger women religious
- Members of the public sector

The consultations are taking place through videoconferencing technology. Each videoconference is facilitated by a member of the planning process design team, with a member of the LCWR board and national office staff present as listeners. Those participating in the conversations will be asked to share their wisdom, insights, ideas, and suggestions on the future vision of LCWR and religious life.

The videoconference conversations began in early December and will continue throughout January. The insights from each conversation will be harvested by the facilitator and listeners, and all information will be processed when the LCWR national board and the design team meet in February.

LCWR is grateful for the generous response it has received from those asked to participate in these conversations. Clearly, many people are interested in the conference and how it may best serve religious life as it moves into the future.

The conference also thanks the design team members (LCWR president-elect Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ; members

Michelle Marie Stachowiak, FFS; Rosalia Meza, FMDV; Judith Donovan, CSJ; and Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM; and executive director Carol Zinn, SSJ) as well as Donna Fyffe of CommunityWorks, Inc. who is facilitating the planning process.



LCWR Co-Sponsors Week of Action for Migrant Justice

Women religious, including LCWR president-elect, Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ and Global Concerns Committee member Sue Dunning, CSJ joined the hundreds of marchers who walked to Friendship Park and Border Field State Park in San Diego to welcome and bless migrants seeking refuge in the United States. The [Week of Action for Migrant Justice](#), began on December 10, International Human Rights Day, with a nonviolent direct action at the border in San Diego. More than 50 [solidarity actions](#) will take place across the nation before the "[Love Knows No Borders](#)" week of action concludes on December 18, International Migrants' Day.

Faith leaders guided a group of more than 400 in a solemn procession to the border. When they reached the enforcement zone, they were stopped by a line of Border Patrol agents in riot gear. Leaders moved forward to offer a ceremonial blessing and 32 people were taken into custody.

LCWR joined the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) and the Interfaith Immigration Coalition (IIC) in sponsoring the week of prophetic witness for the protection of migrants seeking refuge at the US southern border. Organizers are calling on the United States to put an end to the militarization of border communities, respect the human right to migrate, and end the detention and deportation of immigrants.

LCWR Joins Other Faith Leaders to Speak Out Against Anti-Immigrant Funding

As heightened tensions at the border coincide with Congress' debate on funding for detention, deportation, border militarization, and interior enforcement, faith leaders gathered to oppose expanded funding and share the groundswell of compassion and grief that faith communities felt witnessing the

hostility asylum seekers faced at the southern border. Carol Zinn, SSJ, executive director of LCWR, joined a dozen Christian and Jewish leaders outside of Congress to call for humane immigration policy that respects the dignity of every person.

Carol reminded those gathered that, "No one leaves home easily or without cause. No one says goodbye to family and friends without regret. No one embarks on a dangerous journey without fear. Conflict, violence, and extreme poverty push migrants from their homes and cause parents to risk everything for the sake of their children."

Following the press event members of the Interfaith Immigration Coalition and local congregations went to offices of Senate and House leaders of both parties to deliver a letter signed by 38 national faith-based organizations opposing additional enforcement funding and a letter of solidarity with immigrants from more than 800 faith leaders. While offering a list of 6,000 people of faith who had signed a pledge in solidarity with people seeking asylum, the group prayed and sang, encouraging Congressional leaders to "Be the Light!" as Congress nears decisions regarding funding for detention, deportation, border militarization and interior enforcement. The livestream of the press event can be found [here](#).



Women Religious Respond to Migrant Needs at the Border

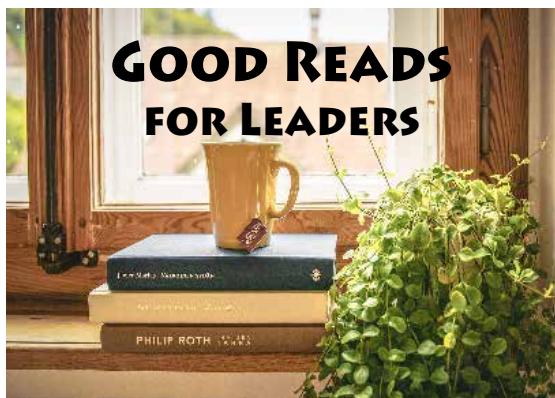
A few weeks ago, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) announced that they would no longer be keeping individuals in holding cells for prolonged lengths of time. Instead, they would release immigrants with instructions to report for their asylum hearings at a later date. Shortly after, the call for help went out from those staffing respite centers at the border. They knew that if they could not provide needed hospitality, ICE would simply release people onto the streets. The response from congregations of women religious to that call to assist at the border has been tremendous.



More than 145 Catholic sisters and their colleagues are volunteering with [Annunciation House](#) in El Paso; [La Posada Providencia](#) in San Benito; Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley's [Respite Center](#) in McAllen; Catholic Charities' [Las Alitas](#) in Tucson; and [Catholic Charities](#) in San Diego. Volunteers are serving meals and cleaning rooms, providing rides to the bus station and airport, and packing care packages for travelers. They are helping with medical needs and communication with family in the United States and assisting with interpretation and travel arrangements. They are making beds and sorting clothes, reading to children, and praying with parents.

In a few cases, congregations are also opening their convents to migrants in need of longer-term housing. While most asylum seekers have family or friends in the country who can help them as they await adjudication of their cases, there are some that have literally no place to go after receiving immediate help at the respite centers.

In addition, religious congregations have been very generous in their financial support. To date congregations have contributed more than \$280,000 to help purchase food and supplies for the centers, provide legal assistance and care packages for immigrants, and help hire extra staff to assist asylum seekers.



Dare to Lead: Brave Work, Tough Conversations, Whole Hearts By Brene Brown

Recommended by Kathleen Bryant, RSC

Brene Brown is a familiar name for those in leadership through her books, TED Talks and the animated video on *Empathy versus Sympathy*. This is a challenging book for leaders using research, personal stories, and strategies for empowering others and using our own vulnerability to build connections. Although I found some repetition from her earlier works, I still enjoyed her insights and challenging questions.

Brene uses frank language and is not shy of sharing her own weakness and failures as a way of teaching. She describes a spirituality of leadership, without being explicit, that is about whole heartedness, based on efforts to be in communion or “connection” as Brene calls it. The book’s emphasis on recognizing our own vulnerability and using it as a launch pad into forming deeper connections reminded me of our 2017 LCWR assembly in which we listened to speakers on grief and loss. In *Dare to Lead*, the approach involves: listening deeply, learning how to be more empathic, letting our vulnerabilities reveal strength. This resonates with our spiritual practice of the awareness examen.

Brene offers tips for having the tough conversations and seeking understanding as well as self-knowledge in the process. Brene writes, “Clear is kind, unclear is unkind. Stop avoiding the tough conversations because you think you’re being polite or kind to people. That’s not kind.”

There are helpful resources online to use with the book at the [Dare to Lead hub](#).

Upcoming LCWR Dates

Leading from Within Retreat

Bethany Retreat Center

Lutz, Florida

February 10 – 15, 2019

LCWR Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center

Marriottsville, MD

March 4 – 6, 2019

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 Practicing Leadership: How to Embrace a Vital and Vibrant Future Workshop

Carmelite Retreat Center, Darien, Illinois

September 17 – 19, 2019

Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center

Tucson, Arizona

January 12 – 17, 2020

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center

University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

March 26 – 29, 2020

Imagining Justice

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center

Marriottsville, MD

April 20 – 23, 2020

LCWR Assembly

Dallas, Texas

August 11 – 15, 2020

Standing Against Racism Resource Sharing Column

How to Overcome Our Biases?

Walk Boldly Toward Them

By Vernā Myers

**Recommended by Donna Marie
Grimschaw, CDP**



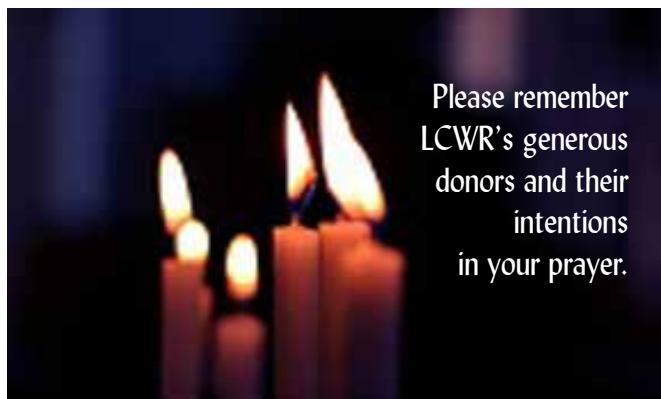
In her TED Talk, [How to overcome our biases? Walk boldly toward them](#), diversity consultant Vernā Myers invites us to examine our subconscious biases, look deep within and change ourselves. First, she advises that we must get out of denial and acknowledge our biases. She poses the question, “Can you imagine our country embracing young black men, seeing them as part of our future, giving them that kind of openness, that kind of grace we give to people we love? How much better would our lives be? How much better would our country be?” Secondly, she notes that we need to move toward young black men and invite us to walk toward our discomfort! Lastly, she challenges us to have the courage to confront racial bias, to say something when we see something; even to the people we love.

Additional [TED Talk](#) presenters on this topic include: Bryan Stevenson, David Williams, Alicia Garcia, Patrisse Cullors, Opal Tometi, and Mia Birdsong.

LCWR members are invited to share insights and suggestions for action on the [LCWR Resource Sharing Forum](#).



- Comment opposing the administration's proposed rule on *Inadmissibility on Public Charge Grounds* that will further restrict legal immigration and punish immigrant families and their citizen children who are lawful residents of this country. LCWR (11/14/18)
- Letter to members of Congress opposing existing, unconscionably high, levels of unchecked and unaccountable spending on deportation agents, detention beds, and militarized border enforcement included in the Department of Homeland Security's budget. LCWR (11/14/18)
- Letter to Leader Pelosi calling on the incoming Democratic-controlled House of Representatives to bring to the floor and send to the Senate, clean, stand-alone legislation that would provide a path to citizenship for Dreamers and recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) within the first 100 days of the 116th Congress. LCWR (11/15/18)
- Letter to Congress asking them to reject President Trumps' anti-immigrant agenda and support asylum seekers. LCWR (11/29/18)
- Faith leaders' letter to Congressional leadership urging them to denounce rhetoric that dehumanizes any part of the human family; rein in Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Customs and Border Patrol by reducing their funding; and denounce proposed change in policy regarding "public charge." Ann Scholz, SSND (11/29/18).
- Statement opposing the Environmental Protection Agency's replacement rule for the Clean Water Rule which will end protection of wetlands or waterways that do not flow all year long, and exempt many now covered under the current 2015 Clean Water Rule. LCWR (12/12/18)





Study on Recent Trends in Newer Vocations to Religious Life

With support and input from sociologists and collaborating organizations, NRVC will conduct a new study on the Recent Trends in Newer Vocations to Religious Life, surveying a new cohort of members who entered from 2003-2018. NRVC is grateful for the support of the GHR Foundation and the expertise of the Center for the Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA), which will conduct the study on NRVC's behalf. The study will ask for information from religious leadership and newer members to describe their own experiences and hopes for religious life.

A national convening was held November 1 to gather insights from nine collaborating organizations to review the questions, add relevant response choices, and discard questions that are no longer relevant. The study research is expected to begin in early 2019 with the final report to be published on February 2, 2020, World Day for Consecrated Life. Further details about the study are available at on the [NRVC website](#).

NRVC Convocation Presentations Available to Share at No Cost

In an effort to provide lifelong education and ongoing formation about vocations, the keynote presentations at the recent NRVC Convocation are available to download as [videos and podcasts](#) that may be shared with all religious community members. The presenters included: Kevin DePrinzo, OSA; Hosffman Ospino, PhD; Xiomara Mendez Hernandez, OP; and Mary Pellegrino, CSJ. Each presentation focuses on the convocation theme: Walk with me: Encounter, Accompaniment and Invitation. Additionally, a video of the young adult panel held at Canisius College as part of convocation is available. A suggestion offered by NRVC is that members of religious communities view the videos on World Day for Consecrated Life celebrated on February 2.



Giving Voice Looking for Assistance with Survey

Leaders are asked to encourage their members to participate in a survey being conducted by Giving Voice.

Giving Voice is a peer-led organization that creates spaces for younger women religious to give voice to their hopes, dreams, and challenges in religious life. The organization is a collective of sisters under age 50 from congregations who are members of both LCWR and CMSWR in the United States. As the organization plans and prepares for its national gathering in June 2019, it is interested in hearing the wisdom from elder sisters. The insights of these women religious will enable the Giving Voice members to listen ever more deeply to the Spirit's call for religious life in this time.

Leaders are asked to copy and send the following link to the survey to the members of their own congregations. (<https://goo.gl/forms/rvtYu3xArd6bZjko1>) It is also possible for survey responders to print the questions on the survey and mail their responses to Mary Therese Perez, OP | 1375 Murchison St. | Los Angeles, CA 90033. All response must be received by March 1, 2019.

Giving Voice thanks all for their support, prayers and love as they discern how to faithfully live the Gospel as Catholic women religious in the world today.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

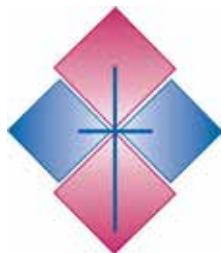
If your leadership term is ending this month, we ask you to submit a change of leadership form found in the [LCWR Members' Information section](#) (password-protected) of the website.

NRRO to Send Direct Care Assistance Applications

In early January, the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) will mail applications for Direct Care Assistance, an annual financial distribution to eligible religious institutes. Funds can be used for immediate eldercare expenses or invested for future retirement needs. In 2018, the NRRO distributed \$25 million in Direct Care Assistance to 360 institutes across the United States. Applications are due by March 31, 2019, and awards will be made in June.

Whether or not a community is applying for funding, leaders are urged to complete the application.

The information assists the NRRO in compiling a comprehensive database of retirement needs and funding among US religious institutes. It also provides vital demographic data that is utilized by other national Catholic organizations, such as the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI). Any community that does not receive the application is asked to call the NRRO office at 202-541-3215.



The series of videos includes these topics:

- Rich community life and how to cultivate it
- Group development
- Going deeper, vulnerability and compassion
- Healthy confrontation and conflict
- Reflection and sharing



Preparing Leaders for the Future

The **Collaborative Leadership Development Program (CLDP)** is an 18-month program sponsored by the Leadership Collaborative. Through an integrative process, it provides 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.



Life-Giving Community: Cultivating Communication, Connection and Compassion

RFC members and non-members are now able to [purchase and access a video recording](#) and presentation files from the *Life-Giving Community: Cultivating Communication, Connection and Compassion* workshop held this fall (special pricing for members).

In this workshop Dr. Kathy Galleher focuses on ways to develop deeper intimacy and connection in community life. She presents practical approaches to deepening our understanding of one another within community (and across generational and cultural differences) and ways to resolve conflict that cultivate compassion.

Eligible applicants are . . .

- Vowed members, co-members, associates of congregations based in the U.S. with ministries outside the U.S.
- Not older than 60 years of age as of January 1, 2019
- Able to commit to three 4-day sessions: **October 13-18, 2019; March 1-6, 2020; and November 8-13, 2020.**
- Recommended by congregational leadership

Applications are due May 20, 2019.

Anyone who would like to receive an invitational letter, brochure, and application form may contact Charlene Diorka, SSJ, program director, at charlenediorka@gmail.com or at 215-421-9915.

Third National Convocation for Justice Promoters Scheduled for March 2019

The third biennial gathering of justice promoters working with congregations of women religious will be held at the Marriott St. Louis Airport Hotel, March 25-27. This year's theme, "Racism: Through the Prism of Social Justice," invites participants to examine the roots of systemic racism and explore the difficult work of purging ourselves, our communities, and our country of the sin of racism and its destructive effects. Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur Patricia Chappell and Anne Louis Nadeau will keynote the convocation. Both are experienced presenters and workshop leaders specializing in anti-racism work. Patricia serves as executive director and Anne-Louis as program director, of Pax Christi USA.



The convocation will open March 25 at 7:00 pm and close March 27 at noon. Registration information is available at www.jcwr.org.

Catholic Health Association Leads Campaign: 'Medicaid Makes It Possible'

Catholic Health Association's "Medicaid Makes It Possible"



campaign is raising a collective voice to ensure that Medicaid remains a viable, efficient, and effective program. This essential health insurance program, and the lives of 74 million people who rely on it, is at risk due to legislative and administrative proposals that could dramatically cut funding and reduce eligibility, causing millions of vulnerable individuals and families to lose health coverage.

CHA is collecting stories about how Medicaid makes a difference in the lives of patients, families, healthcare providers, and women religious, too. Many religious congregations depend on Medicaid to help them provide quality care for their elderly and infirmed sisters. Good news stories about Medicaid may be shared at "[Share Your Story](#)."

Celebrate National Migration Week January 6-12

For nearly a half century, the Catholic Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week. This is an opportunity for the church to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and survivors of human trafficking. This year's theme for National Migration Week 2019, "Building Communities of Welcome," draws attention to the fact that each and every family has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where they are and where they came from, all people are part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another.



National Migration Week (NMW) is an opportunity to engage migrants as community members, neighbors, and friends, to recognize the important role that foster care plays in the lives of unaccompanied immigrants and refugees, to highlight USCCB's Migration and Refugee Services' Parishes Organized to Welcome Refugees, and to examine local initiatives that are making important contributions.

The NMW 2019 Toolkit may be downloaded [here](#). It includes migration facts and talking points, as well as a sample letter to the editor and social media examples. The toolkit also contains community engagement ideas, prayer resources, and homily suggestions.



by Joan Mumaw, IHM
President
www.solidarityfriends.org

*In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
to shine on whose who dwell in darkness and
the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.*

The Christmas season is upon us and our prayer is echoed in these words from the Canticle of Zechariah. The people of South Sudan and so many other places around the world long for peace with justice. May peace be realized in the coming year.

I have just returned from the annual assembly of Solidarity with South Sudan in Rome. This year the assembly took on a festive atmosphere as we celebrated the 10th anniversary of our presence in South Sudan. Leaders from all of the projects/institutions in South Sudan were present to share the stories of their respective institutions: the Teacher Training Institute, the Catholic Health Training Institute, the Solidarity Agricultural Training Project, and the pastoral programs.

Paul Jeffrey, a noted photographer, gifted us with a [Vimeo production](#) summarizing the work of Solidarity. <https://vimeo.com/303351827> Enjoy this 15-minute presentation and share it with your members, family and friends. Know that this is the fruit of your support of Solidarity and Friends in Solidarity, the US partner supporting the work in South Sudan.

On December 8, we moved with LCWR and RCRI to a new office at:

8737 Colesville Road, Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910
734 731 3726
jmumaw.solidarity@gmail.com

We invite you to visit us in our new office. We continue to seek personnel for this office and for South Sudan. If you have someone looking for part-time ministry in office administration or communications and social media, please have them contact me for a job description and/or conversation regarding working for South Sudan.

Thank you for your support over the years and may you and yours be abundantly blessed during this holiday season and the coming year.

Have You Registered for the LCWR Resource Sharing Forum?

The forum is a listserv that is open only to LCWR members and associates. This listserv is a means for LCWR members and associates to communicate with one another online with a question or to share information. When you post a message to this forum it will go to all members who are participating.

The listserv has been an invaluable tool for members seeking information on a variety of topics such as speakers and facilitators; sample policies on housing, retirement, transportation; consultants on building and property renovation; information on sponsorship; group processes; and many other needs.

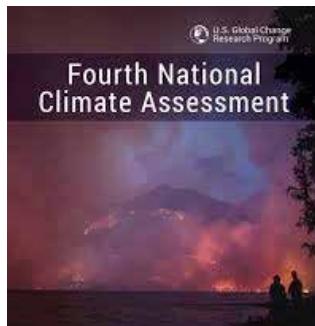
Information for signing up may be found on the Members' section of the LCWR website.

US Climate Assessment Warns of Dire Consequences

On November 23, the federal government released the Fourth National Climate Assessment covering both the science and potential impacts of climate change. The report makes clear that unchecked climate change will cost the United States hundreds of billions of dollars and damage human health.

The climate impacts, predicted years ago, are becoming more and more obvious. The global community is experiencing more frequent and intense storms, longer droughts, and shifts in the vectors of insect borne diseases. The report warns of crumbling infrastructure, falling crop yields, and decreasing labor productivity.

The report notes that everything from tourism based on fishing, hunting, water and winter sports to the cultural and economy of indigenous communities will be impacted. No part of the country will be spared. While some regions of the country could see short-term gains in agricultural productivity, long-term productivity is in jeopardy, especially in farming communities in the Midwest. Almost all regions of the country will be



impacted by water uncertainty from coastal flooding and salt-water inundation to drying aquifers, extended droughts, and regular torrential rains.

Human health is also at risk. As northern climates warm, disease bearing insects and pests that impact food and water are migrating north. Climate change is related to poor water and air quality. The report makes the point, as have many faith leaders and climate observers, the worst impacts will be felt most acutely by already-vulnerable communities.

The assessment confirms previous scientific data and analysis: human activities are the primary driver of climate change, particularly the continued burning of fossil fuels. It calls for drastic and urgent action to address the causes and effects of climate change, and sounds the alarm about dire consequences of inaction.

The report calls for a renewed and accelerated commitment to both local and regional adaptation as well as national and global mitigation. Investments in infrastructure, regional economic cooperation for adaptation and mitigation strategies can have many co-benefits: protection from climate impacts, cleaner air, better responses to weather-related disasters, community cohesion, ecosystem restoration and job creation, particularly in the renewable energy and energy conservation fields.

A summary or the full report may be downloaded [here](#).