

November 2011

LCWR Leadership Development Program Planning Continues



Leadership development planning participants: (standing) Michael Brough; Mary Jo Nelson, OLVM; Barbara Hagedorn, SC; Sara Dwyer, ASC; Chris Koellhoffer, IHM; Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Janet Mock, CSJ; Larry LeNoir; (seated) Sheila Lemieux, CSJP; Nancy Schreck, OSF; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; Mary Haddad, RSM; and Ellen Dauwer, SC

Members of two LCWR committees met jointly to continue planning for an LCWR program offering formation opportunities for those in elected religious life leadership.

Gathering at Washington Theological Union from October 18 - 20, the group of former and current LCWR members, consultants, and LCWR staff created a framework for a multifaceted program that would offer learning opportunities through a variety of modalities.

The combined committee will continue to refine the plan and will seek input from the LCWR membership, partnering organizations, and others on the elements of the plan before beginning its implementation. Key aspects of the plan focus on the creation of mentoring opportunities for leaders, the formation of peer groups, and online learning on a wide number of topics pertinent to religious life leadership now and into the future.

Because of the generosity of the Sisters of Charity Ministry Fund and the Hilton Fund for Sisters, all costs related to the planning phase of the project have been

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Consider Giving a Women & Spirit DVD for Christmas

Several congregations are ordering the LCWR *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* DVD to give as Christmas presents.

Consider purchasing these as gifts for benefactors, associates, boards of sponsored ministries, coworkers, and more. The DVD provides a wonderful history of Catholic sisters for just \$19.95. Reduced prices are available for bulk orders. All proceeds benefit LCWR. Order forms are at: www.womenand-spirit.org.



From the LCWR Presidency
An LCWR Litany of Saints

by **Mary Hughes, OP — LCWR Past President**

As we enter into the month of November, the first two days — All Saints Day and All Souls Day, serve to focus our prayer and reflection. These feasts invite us to reflect upon the lives of those who have gone before us as well as upon the exemplary lives of those who have earned the official church title of saint. In many, if not all of our communities, we hold liturgies of remembrance or special prayer services in honor of those women who have returned home to God during the past year. Our own communal celebration has become a kind of holy day for us. The pictures of our deceased sisters are displayed outside the chapel and we gather along with their family members to retell the stories of how their lives intersected with our own. We remember their contributions, we laugh at their foibles, and we thank God for the gift of their lives.



When we grow weary, as we sometimes do, these women are the example for us. When we feel we lack the wisdom and the words, when we feel overwhelmed by the challenges we face, we have this wonderful resource in the communion of saints. The church has a litany of the saints. Many of our charism groups have developed special litanies of Dominican saints, Franciscan saints, and so on. As leaders in religious congregations, we might turn to our own litany of LCWR saints and ask that their light might shine in our lives and their example energize our own endeavors. And so we pray...

The saints are held up to us because their lives remind us that ordinary people, with the grace of God, can accomplish wonderful things. We pray to different saints for different purposes. Saint Anthony and Saint Jude must work overtime for the special intentions brought to them. We have the saints from our various charism groups and they remind us of the ways in which we too want to live authentically.

In LCWR, we have our own litany of saints. They are the women who have been presidents and/or executive directors of the conference and whom God has called to their eternal reward. They are women who loved their own congregations and their own charisms deeply, but they also found room in their hearts to work on behalf of women from all congregations within our country. They represented us in important places. They spoke on our behalf, both in the easy situations, and in those that merited greater delicacy. They shared their energy, their wisdom, and their love for consecrated life in ways that truly mattered for all of us and for the church. Each woman probably considered herself to be an ordinary person but, with the grace of God, she did extraordinary things for the sake of all.

- | | |
|---|----------------------|
| Alcuin McCarthy, OSF | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| M. Maurice Tobin, RSM | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Mary Helen Wright, BVM | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| M. Florence Wolff, SL | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| M. Josetta Butler, RSM | <i>pray for us..</i> |
| Mary Luke Tobin, SL | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| M. Rose Emanuella Brennan, SNJM | <i>pray for us..</i> |
| Mary Omer Downing, SC | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Thomas Aquinas (Elizabeth) Carroll, RSM | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| M. Claudia Zeller, OSF | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Ann Virginia Bowling, IHM (Associate) | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Francine Zeller, OSF | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Barbara Thomas, SCN | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Lora Ann Quiñonez, CDP | <i>pray for us..</i> |
| Joan Doyle, BVM | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Helen Flaherty, SC | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Margaret Cafferty, PBVM | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Miriam Therese Larkin, CSJ | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Anita deLuna, MCDP | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Andree Fries, CPPS | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| Mary Whited, CPPS | <i>pray for us.</i> |
| <i>All you holy women,</i> | <i>pray for us.</i> |



LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

A retreat for LCWR members and LCWR associates who are serving in congregation leadership

January 15 - 20, 2012
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona

Just a few spaces are left

Join with other women religious leaders for a five-day retreat that will provide opportunities to reflect on the blessings and challenges of religious life leadership today. The days will include input, quiet contemplative space, a variety of ritual experiences, and some opportunity for individual and group spiritual direction for those who so choose.

Directors:

Regina Bechtle, SC and María Elena Martínez, OSF

Registration forms can be downloaded from www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/LFWretreat12.pdf



Leadership Development Planning

(continued from page 1)

covered. LCWR has applied to other foundations to support the initiation of this project and has been encouraged by funders' responses to the program.

Consultants to this project include Michael Brough, director of strategic engagement for the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management; Mary M. Haddad, RSM, senior director, sponsor services for Catholic Health Association; and Larry LeNoir, PhD, professor of pastoral studies at Washington Theological Union.

Committee member Nancy Schreck, OSF also served as the facilitator of the October meeting.

LCWR Membership Renewals Due Before November 1

LCWR member and associate status renewal is underway. At the beginning of October, renewal information was sent about how to access the renewal forms and how to complete them.

Anyone who has not yet submitted membership renewal materials is asked to do so before November 1. Once the renewal forms and checks are processed at LCWR, the office will send a confirmation so that members will have a record of this transaction.

Members Asked to Consider Donations to LCWR Scholarship Fund

LCWR continues to receive requests for scholarship assistance from smaller congregations that do not have sufficient resources to pay all of their annual dues. LCWR has seen a decline in donations to the scholarship fund. Any member who can make even a small donation will help to replenish the fund. The membership application provides an opportunity to donate. All are encouraged to consider supporting others in this way.

THE Occasional Papers



Order Additional Copies of the Winter 2012 Occasional Papers

An order form for the Winter 2012 issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* is available on the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/OPordersWinter2012.pdf

Orders are due by **December 20**.

This issue focuses on the deep transformation that needs to occur so that we can be open to perceiving “the new” – whether the new be in our understandings of the world, life, the church, faith, religious life, etc. What does it take to live in the world today where much of what seemed certain and secure is no longer such, and where divisions in ways of thinking and perceiving seem to be separating us? What is it that the world needs from women religious at this unique time?

Content will include interviews with 2011 LCWR assembly speaker theologian Maricarmen Bracamontes, OSB and Mary Jacksteit of the Public Conversations Project.

Although all members, associates, and subscribers will receive their own copy of this issue, many leaders order additional copies for their members. If you have any questions about an order, please contact Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or at 301-588-4955.



Members of the Contemporary Religious Life Committee meet in St. Louis: Annmarie Sanders, IHM (staff); Patricia Rayburn, OSF; Catherine Bertrand, SSND (facilitator); Susan Schorsten, HM; Janet Mock, CSJ (executive director); Marie McCarthy, SP; and Rosemary Smith, SC. Missing from photo: Rebecca Ann Gemma, OP.

LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Committee Continues Exploration of Critical Issues Impacting Leadership

The Contemporary Religious Life Committee met from October 2-4 in St. Louis, the site of the 2012 LCWR assembly.

After engaging in the “Something New” contemplative process, the committee members worked on an agenda that included the following:

- Review of the 2011 LCWR assembly
- Planning for the 2012 LCWR assembly
- The context for and challenges of religious life leadership today and into the future
- Use of the contemplative process at the fall regional meetings
- LCWR's leadership development project
- Preparation of younger religious for leadership

Help Promote the *Women & Spirit* DVD

LCWR members and associates are asked to help promote LCWR's *Women & Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* DVD. On the DVD is a 56-minute documentary, narrated by Cokie Roberts, that chronicles the story of women religious in this country from 1727 to the present. Also on the DVD are a film study guide and a digital catalog that contains images of all the artifacts and panels that comprise the *Women & Spirit* traveling exhibit. Some of the videos within the exhibit are included as well.

An order form for the DVD may be downloaded from the LCWR website (www.lcwr.org) or the *Women & Spirit* website (www.womenandspirit.org).

Members are asked to promote the DVD within their own institutes, as well as to churches, schools, bishops, vocation offices, women's groups, libraries, and other groups or locations. All proceeds from the sale of the DVD will help support the mission of LCWR.



Creative Uses of the *Women & Spirit* Documentary

From Mary Hughes, OP

LCWR members within the dioceses of Brooklyn and Rockville Centre held a discussion on how they might share the *Women & Spirit* DVD with the priests, bishops, and brothers who may not have had a chance to attend the exhibit. Members of this Long Island, New York group will be selecting several locations throughout the two dioceses and will invite the target audience to choose a place and date that best fits their schedule. The plan is to do this throughout Lent. The program will be simple. There will be refreshments and a viewing of the documentary.

It is our hope that within the local setting we might be able to continue the conversation. If this idea might work for you, please feel free to steal it.

Other Creative Ideas?

If you have an idea for using the *Women & Spirit* DVD that you would be willing to share, please send it to Annmarie Sanders, IHM at asanders@lcwr.org.

Conference Names Search Committee

During its post-assembly meeting in August, the LCWR national board asked Mary Hughes, OP, past-president, to chair the search committee for the next LCWR executive director. The board offered its wisdom and direction for the process during the time all were gathered together.

Since August, a search committee has been formed, with the primary criterion for members being a good understanding of the work of the national office. There was also a desire to include membership from both large and small communities. The four women who graciously agreed to serve on the committee are: Mary Dacey, SSJ; Barbara Hagedorn, SC; Patricia McDermott, RSM; and Theresa Sandok, OSM.

The position is posted on the LCWR website and ads have been placed in the *National Catholic Reporter* and in *America* magazine. Applications are due on November 4. While the hope is that a qualified applicant might be able to begin work in the spring, there is room for negotiation on a starting date.

LCWR members are asked to encourage anyone whom they believe would be well-suited for this position to apply.

From the LCWR Executive Director

Waiting Through the Birthing Process

by Janet Mock, CSJ

Over the past month, I have had the opportunity to attend several LCWR planning meetings both face to face and via conference calls: the Contemporary Religious Life Committee, the Strategic Operations Plan Committee, and the LCWR Collaborative Leadership Program. The presidents and I have regular conference calls and the Finance Committee met in preparation for the upcoming Executive Committee meeting in November. What is striking to me in all these gatherings is the influence of the contemplative process as members of the committees spend a period in prayer and contemplation together and are willing to take precious time to listen deeply for the “new that is emerging” among us. As we all know, with a crowded agenda before us, it is easier to say a quick



Theological Union. Earlier this year, two committees convened: one, to update the LCWR *Leading from Within Manual* and another to design a leadership program for current LCWR members. While the membership of both committees excelled in competencies, no clear direction emerged as THE way to go for these times. Both committees left with ideas, homework, some disillusionment, and many, many questions. On October 18-20, both committees met together at Washington Theological Union. We had planned to begin with the contemplative process, have an initial discussion together, then separate into discreet groups to do our work, reconvene to share ideas with one another and get feedback, and complete this phase of the planning.

After participants engaged in the contemplative process, it became clear that members of both committees wanted to work as a whole. The group had reached such a depth of sharing that everyone wanted the planning to continue within that spirit. There was small group work – but across initial committee groups. The outcome was something no one expected as we began – but it is a direction in which we are confident. The program itself is still in its very initial planning stage and we look forward to receiving your input about it very shortly. For now, I offer the planning process as an example of the creativity that can emerge when a group is willing to wait through the birthing process.

As I reflect on this past month and what I have learned, I think of you members of LCWR and all you have done to bring us to this creative moment. I think especially of Jane Burke, SSND who put in place the com-

This process, if allowed its moment, brings forth insights that take us places that are surprising, energizing, and potentially transformative.

prayer asking God’s blessing on our gathering; yet again and again, I have discovered the value of taking time to listen together, to probe questions, to become intolerant of easy answers, and to plumb the depths of our faith tradition and the signs of the times for the word and direction that are emerging. This process, if allowed its moment, brings forth insights that take us places that are surprising, energizing, and potentially transformative. Opening ourselves to corporate grace seems to prepare our hearts to hear potential partners in new ways.

An example of this kind of corporate contemplation and sharing undergirded the recent LCWR Collaborative Leadership Planning Committee meeting with former and current LCWR leaders and partners from the National Leadership Roundtable on Church Management, Catholic Health Association, and Washington

... thank you for the brave and committed service you render as a leader. We all are better because of you.

mittees that provide such deep and relevant direction. Jane is tolerating her treatments well and we continue to hold her in prayer – with gratitude. As we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving in November, on behalf of the Conference, thank you for the brave and committed service you render as a leader. We all are better because of you. Thank you.

WOMEN & spirit

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

Upcoming Showings

Center for History

South Bend, Indiana -- September 2 - December 31, 2011

The California Museum of History, Women & the Arts

Sacramento, California — January 24 - June 3, 2012

Exhibit and Ancillary Programs Draw Many to Center for History

The University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College in South Bend, Indiana have been working with the Center for History in offering a number of programs that highlight the story of US women religious and draw visitors to the exhibit. The two colleges are hosting a film series on Catholic sisters, as well as a number of lectures, among them one delivered by theologian Sandra Schneiders, IHM on a prophetic future for women religious (See the *National Catholic Reporter*: ncronline.org/news/women/schneiders-prophetic-future-ahead-women-religious).

Center for History in South Bend, Indiana



Housing Options in South Bend

The Sisters of the Holy Cross are pleased to offer hospitality to women religious who will be visiting the *Women & Spirit* exhibit while it is on display in South Bend, Indiana. A limited number of rooms is available at the congregation's motherhouse at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, Indiana. A kitchen is available for the use of guests. Guests are most welcome to join the sisters for meals in the convent dining room. The congregation will not charge a fee for hospitality. Donations are gratefully accepted. The following contact information may be used to determine availability and make reservations.

Contact: Joyce Sobieralski
E-mail: joyces@cscsisters.org
Telephone: 574-284-5635

Entrance to the Women & Spirit exhibit



LCWR president Pat Farrell, OSF addresses the approximately 200 people who attended the opening of the exhibit on September 8

Members Urged to Call for End of Abuse at Jordanian Garment Factory with US Ties

Classic, Jordan's largest garment exporter to the United States, faces an international outcry about sexual abuse in its factories. Days after the allegations of a 27 year old Bangladeshi seamstress that her manager raped her were published; U.S. retailers Kohl's, Macy's, and Lands' End stopped placing orders with Classic. Cases of abuse at Classic have been documented since at least 2007. Uninhabitable dormitories, 13-18 hour work days, unfair wages, physical mistreatment, and sexual exploitation are reported repeatedly by the workers. At least 300 young female employees have reported being raped and brutalized by Classic managers while sewing clothes for giant retailers, including Hanes, Target, and Sears.

A petition calling for an immediate end to the sexual abuse, rape, torture, and beatings of young women guest workers at the Classic factory in Jordan may be signed at www.change.org/petitions/tell-walmart-to-stop-rape-and-torture-of-young-women-in-its-factories.

Information for this article was taken from *The Institute for Global Labor and Human Rights* (www.globallabourrights.org) and email alerts.

LCWR Finance and Audit Committee Develops Financial Forecasting Materials

Members of the LCWR Finance and Audit Committee met in Chicago on September 26. The 2012 budget proposal was reviewed and will be recommended to the LCWR executive committee and the LCWR board. Newly appointed committee member Pat Eck, CBS joined the committee for this meeting.

The committee continues to develop financial forecasting materials for consideration by the board and the Strategic Operational Plan Committee. As a result of these discussions, several recommendations have been forwarded to the executive committee for consideration at its November meeting.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center

Tucson, Arizona

January 15 — 20, 2012

Systemic Change Think Tank

Bethany Center

Lutz, Florida

March 5 — 8, 2012

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

March 15 — 18, 2012

LCWR Assembly

St. Louis, Missouri

August 7 — 11, 2012

LCWR New Leader Workshop

Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake

Mundelein, Illinois

March 21 — 24, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Orlando, Florida

August 13 — 17, 2013

LCWR Assembly

Nashville, Tennessee

August 12 — 16, 2014



Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally.

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LCWR Asks Congress to Oppose Cuts to International Affairs Budget

LCWR continues to be committed to encouraging lawmakers to craft a budget and a deficit reduction plan that protect the most vulnerable. In response to that commitment and in support of the interfaith community's Faithful Budget Campaign, LCWR recently sent a letter to the Joint Select Committee asking members to oppose further deep and disproportionate cuts to the International Affairs Budget when considering deficit reduction plans. The letter reads in part:

The International Affairs Budget is a strategic and moral investment that spurs economic growth, promotes peace, and saves millions of lives. We know from our own experience as women religious ministering to those most in need—in health care facilities, social service agencies, and educational institutions around the world—that these programs meet the economic and strategic needs of America by bettering lives and recognizing the dignity of people who are often relegated to the margins. Poor and vulnerable people abroad do not have powerful lobbies, but they have a claim on our national conscience and play a critical role in securing our country's future.

UN Seminars Offered for Leadership Teams

The Partnership for Global Justice will host day-long executive seminars for leadership team members of religious congregations on Tuesday, November 15, 2011 and again on Tuesday, January 24, 2012. The seminars, to be held in New York City near the United Nations, are designed to introduce participants to the work of non-governmental organizations at the UN. The program will include:

- An overview of the UN system
- Discussion of the Millennium Development Goals
- Dialogue with an ambassador to the UN
- Presentations on topics before various UN bodies
- A luncheon

For more information contact the Partnership Office at partnershipforglobaljustice@gmail.com or visit www.partnershipforglobaljustice.com.

Faithful Budget Campaign Launches Grassroots Prayer Initiative

Prayer vigils for a "Faithful Budget" outcome to the work of the congressional deficit super committee have resumed in Washington. Each Tuesday, an interfaith group gathers on Capitol Hill to hold Congress in prayer and to make a visible sign and witness of unity to the prophetic call of justice of various faith traditions.

For the next eight weeks, churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship in the states and districts of members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, as well as congressional leadership, will hold prayer vigils and demonstrations to encourage "Deficit Super Committee" members to recommend a fair deficit reduction plan that exempts programs from budget cuts that assist the most at-risk families and children in the United States and abroad. In addition, local religious leaders will seek in-district meetings with their congressional representation and thousands of people will participate in national call-in days being planned for October and November. A "Super Prayer Vigil" is scheduled for Sunday, November 20 when vigils will simultaneously occur in Washington and in states and congressional districts across the country.

Campaign details and materials are available at www.domestichumanneeds.org.

LCWR Seeks Executive Assistant

LCWR is searching for an executive assistant to work directly with the executive director, providing critical administrative support. The executive assistant is responsible for general administrative tasks, other office duties, some program coordination, and should be someone who can easily interact with various groups and organizations. This position requires someone with excellent verbal and written communication skills who is organized, efficient, detail-oriented, proficient in various computer programs, and able to safeguard confidential materials and information. Anyone interested in the position is asked to contact LCWR executive director Janet Mock, CSJ at jmock@lcwr.org for a full job description.