

Update

*A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious*

May 2008

LCWR Officers Meet with Vatican Officials in Rome

Each spring representatives of LCWR and CMSM travel to Rome to meet with a variety of officials at the Vatican. The LCWR delegation this year included: Mary Whited, CPPS, LCWR president; Mary Dacey, SSJ, LCWR past-president; J. Lora Dambroski, OSF, LCWR president-elect; and Carole Shinnick, SSND, LCWR executive director.

The trip's hoped-for outcome is the enhancement of communication between the US national conferences (CMSM and LCWR) and the Vatican. Of particular importance is the meeting with the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CICLSAL.)

On March 31 LCWR met for two hours with Cardinal Franc Rodé and several members of CICLSAL at their offices off St. Peter's Square. The cardinal raised a number of issues and the LCWR delegation offered LCWR's perspective. Topics included community life, recruitment and formation of new members, and living the vows.

On the evening of April 1, the members of the LCWR delegation met with five members of the executive committee of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR) and some of the staff of CICLSAL.

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The LCWR delegation to Rome: Carole Shinnick, SSND; Mary Dacey, SSJ; Mary Whited, CPPS; and J. Lora Dambroski, OSF

LCWR Names New Executive Director

The LCWR national board announced the appointment of Jane Burke, SSND as the conference's new executive director, a position she will assume in August.

A member of the Atlantic-Midwest province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame, Jane served for eight years as the provincial leader of the SSND Baltimore province. Most recently, she was the national manager for the Justice for Immigrants Campaign sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

With a background in education and social work, she was also the executive director of Catholic Charities for the diocese of Venice, Florida, and the co-founder and



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From the LCWR Presidency Called to be of 'One Mind and One Heart'

by Mary Dacey, SSJ — LCWR Past President

In early April the LCWR presidency and executive director, along with the executive committee of CMSM, traveled to Rome for our annual visit to the Vatican offices. Perhaps because this was my last visit, I was more conscious of the Scripture readings as our small "community of believers" gathered to celebrate Eucharist each day. Over the course of the week, we prayed over and listened to vivid stories of post-Resurrection encounters and the struggles of an emerging church. Each day I was struck by two recurring themes: the uncertainty of the disciples after the death of Jesus and the spirit of community that sustained their struggles.

The pattern of these stories is strikingly similar. When the women find the empty tomb they run to tell the disciples. When Mary Magdalene encounters the risen Jesus she rushes to Peter and John to share the good news. When Peter decides to go fishing, it is John who helps him to recognize Jesus on the shore, and it is in the sharing of the meal that Jesus reveals himself to the rest of the disciples.

And there is the Emmaus story. Dejected, frustrated, uncertain of their future, the two disciples lament their state — "We were hoping that he was the One who would set Israel free." When they come to know Jesus in the breaking of the bread, they get up *immediately* and return to the assembled company of their brothers and sisters in Jerusalem. As they recount the story of their hearts burning within them, the whole community comes to know Jesus at a deeper level. The message is clear



— these encounters are not meant for the individual alone.

Before Pentecost, the apostles spend nine days together. Perhaps this was the first community meeting! A time for praying together, sharing their stories and dreams, preparing themselves for the coming of the Holy Spirit. Truly, a time of grace. We know this because those very same disciples who were frightened and uncertain are later described as being of "one mind and one heart ... and taking care of those who

might be in need."

Like these disciples and early Christians we too face the uncertainty of an unknown future. Yet, as we step into the unknown, some things are certain. We too are called to be of one mind and one heart. We too are called to care for the needy among us. And we too are called to the passion of burning hearts because we have come to know Jesus and one another in the breaking of the

bread. Like the disciples on the way to Emmaus, we did not choose to journey in this time and place, but we *can* choose to open ourselves to find Jesus on the road we travel. What we share is the wonderful promise proclaimed in John's gospel, that God "does not ration the gift of the spirit."

It has been a privilege to journey to Rome these past three years in the company of such good and dedicated men and

women religious. Despite the challenges, or maybe because of them, we enjoyed the grace of being "one mind and one heart" as we entered into the challenge and struggle of an emerging church today.

*We too are called
to be of one mind and one heart.*

*We too are called
to care for the needy among us.*

*And we too are called
to the passion of burning hearts
because we have come to know*

*Jesus and one another
in the breaking of the bread.*

LCWR Officers Meet with Vatican Officials in Rome

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The meeting was initiated by the CICALSAL staff as an opportunity for LCWR and CMSWR to engage in dialogue with each other and with the CICALSAL staff.

On April 2, LCWR had a meeting with Cardinal William Levada and Father Augustine DiNoia, OP at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Cardinal Levada was especially interested in the LCWR history exhibit project and requested a copy of the exhibit itinerary once it is available. Another important visit for LCWR because of the involvement of LCWR congregations in Catholic hospital systems was to the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Healthcare. Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan welcomed LCWR to his office on April 3.

LCWR had two opportunities for conversation with some of the religious women leaders in Rome. On the afternoon of April 3, LCWR joined the executive committee of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) at their offices overlooking the Tiber. And on

April 4, LCWR met with approximately 22 members of various councils in Rome at the generalate of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

Visits conducted jointly with CMSM included:

- The Congregation for Oriental Churches (Cardinal Leonardo Sandri)
- The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Cardinal Renato Martino and staff)
- The Pontifical Council for Migrants and Refugees (Cardinal Renato Martino and staff)
- The Pontifical Council for Inter-Religious Dialogue (Cardinal Jean-Louis Pierre Tauran and staff)

On the evening of April 2, CMSM and LCWR hosted a reception on the roof of the Palazzo Tribunale Collegio dei Penitenzieri, a residence of the Conventual Franciscan Friars who serve as the confessors for St. Peter's Basilica. The building is located in Vatican City, directly behind the dome of St. Peter's, and overlooks the Vatican Gardens. Several of the cardinals and staffs of the congregations and councils that LCWR and CMSM visited, as well as religious leaders based in Rome, attended the reception. The event was an informal way to continue developing positive relationships with so many who serve in Rome.



Cardinal Franc Rodé of CICALSAL; Tom Picton, CSsR (CMSM president); Mary Dacey, SSJ and Tom Johnson, FSC at the CMSM-LCWR reception



Sharon Holland, IHM (CICALSAL staff); J. Lora Dambroski, OSF; Mary Whited, CPPS; and Mary Dacey, SSJ



(Seated) Cardinal William Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and Mary Whited, CPPS (Standing) Mary Dacey, SSJ; J. Lora Dambroski, OSF; Augustine DiNoia, OP (CDF staff) and Carole Shinnick, SSND

LCWR Officers Meet with Vatican Officials in Rome



Tom Picton, CSsR; Cardinal Leonardo Sandri (Prefect); J. Lora Dambroski, OSF; Carole Shinnick, SSND and Frank Carr, FSC (CMSM) at the Congregation for Oriental Churches



Mary Whited, CPPS; Maureen Cusick, NDS; Grace Mary Croft, SDS; Carol Regan, SUSC; J. Lora Dambroski, OSF; Sharon Holland, IHM; and Carole Shinnick, SSND at the rooftop reception at the Palazzo Tribunale behind St. Peter's Dome



Mary Dacey, SSJ; J. Lora Dambroski, OSF; Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan (President) and Mary Whited, CPPS at the Pontifical Council for Pastoral Assistance to Healthcare



J. Lora Dambroski, OSF and Tom Picton, CSsR being shown some of the precious artwork at the Congregation for Oriental Churches

LCWR Names New Executive Director

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executive director of The Guadalupe Center in Immokalee, Florida where she ministered to migrant workers. She also taught in schools in Washington, DC; Maryland; and Pennsylvania.

She was chair of the board of directors of the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, a corporate board member of Sisters Academy in Baltimore, and a board member of Habitat for Humanity in Immokalee.

LCWR thanks the committee that worked to find a new executive director to replace Carole Shinnick, SSND, whose service to LCWR will terminate in August. The search committee was chaired by Mary Dacey, SSJ, and its members included Catherine Bertrand, SSND; Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Mary Mollison, CSA; and Janet Roesener, CSJ.

LCWR Represented During Papal Visit to US

During Pope Benedict XVI's recent visit to the United States, LCWR was represented at the outdoor papal mass celebrated at Washington's new Nationals' Stadium. Mary Dacey, SSJ, LCWR past-president; Carole Shinnick, SSND, LCWR executive director; Pat Cormack, SCSC, LCWR associate director for business and finance were seated on the playing field near the altar erected for the liturgy. Mary was one of 50 people selected to receive communion from Pope Benedict. Because Mary was seated close to the altar she also had the opportunity to shake the pontiff's hand and to take some of close-up pictures of him shown here during the entrance procession.

LCWR associate director for social mission Marie Lucey, OSF also represented LCWR at the arrival ceremony held by President and Mrs. Bush on the South Lawn of the White House on April 16.



Mary Dacey, SSJ near the altar at Nationals' Stadium prior to the Eucharistic liturgy



Carole Shinnick, SSND and Pat Cormack, SCSC await the pope's arrival at Nationals' Stadium

Joint Justice Meeting Held in Seattle

Members of the LCWR Global Concerns Committee (GCC) and CMSM Justice and Peace Committee met at the Archdiocesan Palisades Retreat Center outside Seattle April 2 and 3. Linda Haydock, SNJM, director of the Seattle-based Intercommunity Peace and Justice Center, joined the group for a presentation on how climate change impacts the northwest, followed by further discussion on climate change and other issues address by IPJC.

Members also discussed presenting the Resolution on Climate Change during the resolution hearing at the summer assembly as well as at the Convention for the Common Good. Each conference also shared its activities addressing justice issues on both the national and international levels. Information about the international JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) promoters' activities was provided by Seamus Finn, OMI.

In a separate meeting, members of the GCC debriefed the joint meeting, identified possible new members for the committee, assigned tasks for the assembly, and discussed a possible statement on the Iraq war. Marie Lucey, OSF provided a report on staff activities and on the recent LCWR systemic change think tank. In addition, members spent some time engaging in the dialogue process for the Convention for the Common Good, the results of which will be sent to NETWORK.



Members of the LCWR and CMSM committees met in Washington: (front) Susan Schorsten, HM; Marie Lucey, OSF; Carol Descoteaux, CSC; Jacquelyn Doepker, OSF (back) Michael McNulty, SJ; Juan Molina, OSST; Seamus Finn, OMI; Andrea Nenzel, CSJP; Joy Peterson, PBVM; and Chris Promis, CSSP

LCWR Finance Committee Meets in Silver Spring



Members of the LCWR Finance Committee met at the national office in Silver Spring, Maryland in April. Front row: Maryann Summa, OP (treasurer); and Alice Coté, RJM. Back row: Mary Persico, IHM; Geraldine Hoyler, CSC; and Pat Cormack, SCSC, LCWR associate director for business and finance. Not present were Pam Chiesa, PBVM and Rose Jochmann, OSF.

Complex Transformation Hearings Elicit Huge Response

The hearings held by the Department of Energy on its proposed Complex Transformation generated 85,000 comments, the majority of which oppose the plans to build new plutonium pits, the triggers for nuclear warheads. During the final hearing on March 25 at the DOE in Washington, DC, Marie Lucey, OSF offered comments on behalf of LCWR. (See www.lcwr.org/lcwrsocialjustice/nucweap.doc)

In addition, many LCWR congregations signed onto a Faithful Security statement by religious groups and submitted their own comments. Due to the overwhelming response, the DOE extended its deadline from April 10 to April 30.

LCWR is one of 28 national religious organizations to sign an April 15 letter urging elimination of funding for the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) program in FY09.

From the LCWR Executive Director 'The Mozart Effect'

The elements of leadership vary in proportion within each human container. Some leaders have natural charisma while others have practical skills. Some have an intuitive understanding of the deepest desires of those they lead, and others may best trust scientific measures to know the members' hopes. Some lead by the power of their presence and others lead quietly from within the group. Whatever the skills and native gifts of leaders, they cannot develop in isolation. Like the flowers and vegetables being planted right now, leaders require a nurturing, vital environment in order to bloom.



Carole Shinnick, SSND

to his left – almost shyly - and looked at the pope. As the Holy Father rose from his seat, Domingo strode towards him, dropped to his knees, and kissed his ring. His gesture was elegant, almost knightly, and incredibly touching.

Pope Benedict has been portrayed in the media as a quiet, reserved scholar. He has also been described as a lover of the arts, and in particular of classical music.

His favorite composer according to his brother Monsignor Georg Ratzinger is Mozart. In an interview with then-Cardinal Ratzinger, the pontiff describes the influence Mozart had on him as a child:²

Although we moved around a very great deal in my childhood... the largest and most important and best parts of my youth I spent in Traunstein, which very much reflects the influence of Salzburg. You might say that there Mozart thoroughly penetrated our souls, and his music still touches me very deeply, because it is so luminous and yet at the same time so deep. His music is by no means just entertainment; it contains the whole tragedy of human existence.

During his recent visit, the Holy Father evidenced both the shy scholar and the compassionate pastor. I would like to think that his love for art, music, and beauty has fed his pastoral side, and that the fact that he spends part of his evenings playing Mozart, in whose music he hears "the whole tragedy of human existence," has enhanced his capacity for care.

Obviously, leaders need ongoing education and skill development in concert with their particular responsibilities. They must have significant, sustaining relationships to enliven their hearts and refresh their spirits. But perhaps an overlooked dimension of leadership nurturance is the regular and intentional immersion in the arts. Fine literature, drama, music, paintings, and films have a way of drawing us into the deeper level of human experience where we can meet unknown others and find our own hidden selves.

Last week I was privileged to be among those gathered at the new Nationals' Stadium in Washington for the first of Pope Benedict's public liturgies. Perhaps you saw what for me was one of the most touching moments of the papal visit - the singing of Panis Angelicus by the legendary Spanish tenor, Placido Domingo.

As the crowd quieted down after the distribution of communion, Domingo stepped to the podium. There was a murmur and then a hush. Then he sang. His rich voice rolled across the field, soared over the bleachers, and climbed into the cloudless sky. It was simply exquisite. When he finished singing, he turned



PHOTO BY MARY DACEY, SSJ

It would seem that we, too, might follow his good example and attend to our own absolute need for art.

Footnotes

¹Watch Placido Domingo singing at the mass on April 16, 2008: <http://vivirlatino.com/2008/04/18/friday->

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Order LCWR Occasional Papers by May 2

A new issue of LCWR's *Occasional Papers* is ready to go to press. Every LCWR member and associate will receive a copy of this issue. If anyone wishes to order additional copies, orders must be received by **Friday, May 2**. LCWR will print only the number of copies that have been pre-ordered.

This issue features the following:

- Interviews with Margaret O'Brien, OSU; Fintan Sheeran, SSCC; and Barbara Stanbridge, IHM (facilitators who have worked extensively with religious congregations) on leading in religious life today in new ways
- Interview with Marcia Allen, CSJ on contemplation and religious life leadership
- Reflections by 12 LCWR members on mountain scriptural stories in light of the wisdom contained within these stories for religious and, particularly, religious life leaders today as the conference prepares for this summer's assembly, "On This Holy Mountain"

The order form (which must be submitted with a check by May 2) is available on the LCWR website at www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/oporders.doc

The Mozart Effect

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[morning-bendiciones-placido-domingo-at-pope-benedicts-dc-misa.ph](http://www.morning-bendiciones-placido-domingo-at-pope-benedicts-dc-misa.ph)

² Pope Benedict XVI, Mozart and the Quest of Beauty by Mark Freer at <http://www.catholiceducation.org/articles/arts/al0275.htm>

CHA Board Holds Annual Public Policy Session

The spring meeting of the Catholic Health Association (CHA) is held in Washington, DC where board members have the opportunity to hear about public policy issues following their board agenda. This year's speakers were Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), a primary sponsor of the bipartisan Healthy Americans Act: Prospects for Health Reform Legislation, and Bob Greenstein, executive director of the Center for Budget Policy and Priorities, who addressed the federal budget and healthcare. Each presenter also welcomed questions and comments from board members.

During the regular board meeting, a report was given on a national survey of 800 likely voters taken March 31-April 2, 2008. When national security and the Iraq war are taken off the table, the highest issue is jobs and the economy, with healthcare ranked second. One of the factors named as responsible for high healthcare costs is the false assumption that "illegal immigrants" are a major cause. It was also noted that there is no difference in opinion on this issue between Catholics and others. Findings about personal values underlying responses were promotion of human dignity (high); contribution to the common good (middle); helping people in poverty (lower than middle).

Board members were informed that a conference to be held at the University of Notre Dame this spring sponsored by a group called the National Catholic Committee on Health Care is, in actuality, a ruse for attacking CHA. John Carr, a participating observer at CHA board meetings, made it clear the USCCB has nothing to do with this conference. Also, it was pointed out that an April 4 *Wall Street Journal* article, titled "Non-Profits Strike It Rich," illustrates two realities: that Catholic healthcare must be very attentive to providing real charity care, and that there is still need to educate the public regarding community benefits. The American Health Association (AHA) has indicated support for CHA and will collaborate in doing analysis.

CHA board member Regina Benjamin, MD, MBA was recently awarded AHA's highest honor, and two board members, David Jimenez (COO Catholic Health Partners) and Lloyd Dean (President/CEO Catholic Healthcare West) were named among the top 25 minority healthcare leaders in the country.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR-CMSM Joint Assembly
Denver, Colorado
August 1 — 5, 2008

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Franciscan Center
Tampa, Florida
January 12 — 16, 2009

LCWR New Leader Workshop
The Retreat Center at St. John's
Plymouth, Michigan
March 19 — 22, 2009

LCWR Assembly
New Orleans, Louisiana
August 11 — 15, 2009

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 17 — 22, 2010

Ministry Opening: Legal Resource Center for Religious

Associate Director for Canon Law

The Legal Resource Center for Religious is seeking a qualified candidate to serve as associate director for canon law. The associate director serves in a role that is primarily educative and consultative regarding the variety of canonical issues affecting religious communities. LRCR works with CMSM, LCWR, and NATRI in assisting religious communities on the community, local, and national levels. Qualifications: JCL or JCD, member of a religious community or significant work experience with religious communities. Send letter of interest, resume and two letters of reference to:

Daniel Ward, OSB
8812 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910

The 2008 NATRI Orientation to Financial Management A Seminar for Financial and Leadership Personnel of Religious Institutes

June 2-6, 2008

The Retreat Center at St. John's, Plymouth, Michigan

Stewardship Roles	Barbara Matteson, OP
Fiscal Planning	Hertha Longo, CSA
Accounting: Basic	Keith Zekind
Accounting: Advanced	Sue Novak, CPA
Investments: Basic	Keith Zekind
Investments: Advanced	Kathleen Hegenbart
Canon and Civil Law	Dan Ward, OSB
Government Programs	Constance Neeson, LSPW
Retirement Planning	Janice Bader, CPPS
Risk Management	Roger Duffield
Facilities Management	Barbara Winnals, SSJ

Visit the NATRI website for application materials
www.natri.org.

Choose Programs then Annual Orientation Seminar
For scholarship information, call Helen Burke, CSJ at
301-587-7776



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From the
**Center for the Study of
 Religious Life**

Generational Cultures in Religious Life

CSRL expects to make available in mid-May two PowerPoint presentations on Generational Cultures. Part I introduces aspects of culture and then turns to a discussion of the roots of generational cultures. Part II focuses on two specific generations – the millennials and generation X.

Patricia Wittberg, SC, wrote the text for both presentations specifically for reflection within religious congregations. There will be accompanying reflection questions, exercises, and bibliography. Members of CSRL will receive an e-mail when the presentations and supporting documents are posted on the CSRL website, www.religious-life.org.

NRVC and CARA Conduct Study on Religious Vocations

All LCWR major superiors should have received a survey from the National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) and the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) regarding vocation trends in their religious institute. This survey focuses on the characteristics of the institute, the lifestyle of the members, and the characteristics of the institute's vocation and formation programs, including the number of those who have entered and professed and/or left religious life within the past 15 years.

This survey is the first part of a major research project to assess the state of religious vocations for both men and women in the United States. It is NRVC's hope that the resulting data will help everyone separate fact from fiction and will highlight best practices in vocation and formation programs.

The participation of all LCWR membership communities in this study will be greatly appreciated. Each participating community will receive a complimentary copy of the final research report upon its completion. The survey deadline is May 1.

Both NRVC and CARA thank all religious institute leaders in advance for their cooperation.

RFC Board Develops Two-Phased Implementation Plan

The Religious Formation Conference (RFC) board and national office staff participated in April in a meeting that included significant movement toward a two-phased implementation plan of the mission, goals, and strategies document approved by the board in April 2007.

The explicit challenge of the RFC mission, "... rooted in the Gospel, called by God's prophetic Spirit and responsive to the signs of the times ..." in the service of initial and life-long formation of members, evoked courageous conversations and actions. Conversation related to religious life as a prophetic undertaking not initiated by religious themselves, but challenging them nonetheless, reminded the board and staff that religious are in the service of responding to God's prophetic Spirit to prepare for an alternate future of religious life in the context of communion and mission.

The board and staff are clear that RFC is not simply a maintenance organization but one that is called to continue creating a future in response to the call of God's prophetic Spirit and responsive to contemporary world and church needs. Implicit in this is a charge to address who religious are forming and for what world they are forming women and men both in and beyond initial formation. As the board and staff reflected on the challenge of life-long transformation of membership at large, they mused about how this might be done most effectively in collaboration with RFC's partner organizations who essentially serve the same stakeholders though with unique identity and focus. RFC looks forward to broadening and deepening that relationship.