

LCWR Executive Committee Meets in Cincinnati

The LCWR executive committee met from June 9-12 at the motherhouse of the Sisters of Charity in Cincinnati. The meeting included preparation for the LCWR-CMSM assembly and, particularly, the LCWR Shared Future Process. Mary Mollison, CSA, who will facilitate the segment of the assembly where members will work together to articulate a vision for LCWR, joined the executive committee for further planning.

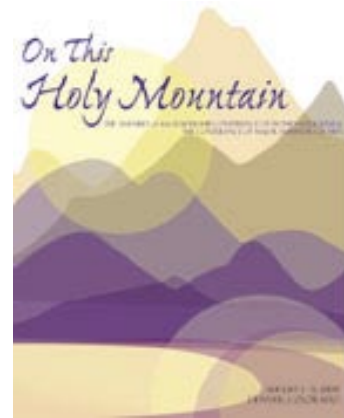
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Mary Dacey, SSJ



*Barbara Hagedorn, SC and
J. Lora Dambroski, OSF*



On This Holy Mountain LCWR-CMSM Assembly

Denver, Colorado

August 1-5, 2008

Have you ...

- Mailed your assembly registration form and check to the LCWR national office?
- Registered online for a hotel room (<https://nixas-soc.com/reservations.aspx?formid=5>)?
- Made airline reservations?
- Registered separately for any pre-assembly events?

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From the LCWR Presidency A Tribute to Carole Shinnick, SSND

by Mary Whited, CPPS — LCWR President

In the October 2006 issue of *LCWR Update*, Carole Shinnick wrote an article entitled “Did You Ever Thank the Angels In Your Life?” As I write this column, I am aware of an “angel” who will transition out of her position as executive director of LCWR after our August assembly. Carole has given a total of nine years to LCWR, six years as executive director and the prior three years as secretary of LCWR. As you read my reflection, I invite you to pause to appreciate this “angel” in our lives.



Who could doubt that Carole’s monthly columns in the *LCWR Update* have touched both minds and hearts of thousands of leaders? She has such a gift for writing about seasons of the year and blessings of ordinary time! She has an ability to discover meaning in the multiple images on which she draws: hot balloon rides, germly childhoods, goldfish, potted plants, and even lost keys. When she quotes the poetry of Emily Dickinson and shares the plots of current films, she stirs our dreams and lifts our spirits. Her sense of playfulness is cause for chuckle over titles such as these: “A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Museum,” “The Mozart Effect,” and “May I Have Your Attention Please.” We will not hold it against her that, in the 60+ columns she has written, she missed her deadline once.

Carole has shepherded the history exhibit from its inception on February 2, 2004, in the lobby of the motherhouse of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in St. Louis. *Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America* has taken shape in the minds and hearts of a wonderful planning committee, archivists, designers, and practical dreamers like Carole. When we wanted to make a difference for women religious in New Orleans after the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, Carole was there to help us respond concretely and significantly.

*You are an ‘angel’
in our lives,
and we are truly grateful.*

Throughout the past six years Carole has been on hand to make sure that the New Leaders Workshop went smoothly and that the Leading From Within Retreats would touch the hearts of experienced leaders. Frequent flyer miles added up as she flew with the presidency from Washington, DC to Chicago, Rome, Tucson, Anaheim, Dallas, and Tampa. With her trusty “BlackBerry” she has juggled well the conference calls; meetings with our presidency, executive committee, and

the national board; work with staff; assembly planning; meetings of US bishops; papal visits; and collaborative efforts with the Council of Major Superiors of Men and so many other groups.

Carole has been an asset in our efforts as a conference to connect with these organizations whose initials we sometimes struggle to remember: NRRO, CMSWR, CRC, CLAR, NATRI, LRRCR, CRLM, RFC, NRVC, CRLM, and so many others. Six years of experience with LCWR have made her an expert at

arranging a lot of luggage in the small trunk of her car. She probably has lost count of the number of LCWR presidents and national board members who have ridden in her little blue Chevy Cavalier.

At our assembly this year we will make sure to say “thank you” in person to Carole who truly lives these words she once wrote:

Ours is to be willing to invest in a future we may never see. And ours is to know that letting go of results draws us into the dance of transformation – wild, free, and open. (LCWR Update November 2007)

Carole, you give untiringly of yourself to meet the needs of the present and to invest in the future of LCWR. To borrow your words, you are an “angel” in our lives, and we are truly grateful.

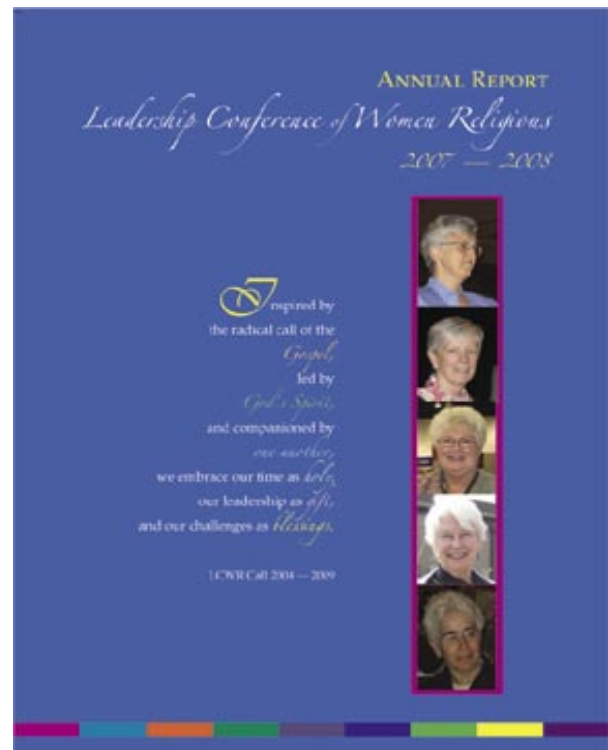
LCWR Executive Committee Meets in Cincinnati

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Other agenda items discussed by the committee included:

- the visit of the LCWR officers to the Vatican
- an update on the recent meeting of the USCCB's International Policy Committee
- an update on the LCWR-FADICA New Orleans project
- plans for upcoming LCWR programs
- the transition of the executive director
- the CARA inventory on policies and procedures related to sexual abuse
- committee appointments
- a finance report
- preparation for the August LCWR national board meeting

The members of the executive committee are Mary Whited, CPPS, president; J. Lora Dambroski, OSF, president-elect; Mary Dacey, SSJ, past-president; Jeanne Bessette, OSF, secretary; Maryann Summa, OP, treasurer; Katie Clauss, IHM and Barbara Hagedorn, SC, members-at-large; and Carole Shinnick, SSND, execu-



LCWR Annual Report Available Online

The 2007-2008 LCWR annual report is available on the LCWR website at www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/report08.pdf.

At the LCWR fall regional meetings, members were asked to indicate whether or not they would like to see LCWR switch from printing an annual report to creating an online report. The majority of members indicated that they wished to try an online version. This decision represents some financial savings for the conference since it no longer needs to print and mail the report.

The report will also be posted on the website of the US Catholic Conference of Bishops in the section that is restricted for the bishops.

Members will be asked to approve the report at the LCWR-CMSM assembly in August.



Jeanne Bessette, OSF

Executive committee member Katie Clauss, IHM with assembly facilitator Mary Mollison, CSA



LCWR Represented at Canadian Religious Conference

LCWR president Mary Whited, CPPS and executive director Carole Shinnick, SSND participated in the bi-annual assembly of the Canadian Religious Conference. The assembly was held in Quebec City which this year is celebrating the 400th anniversary of its founding in 1608. The theme of the assembly, Remembering for the Future, reflected the anniversary of the city and celebrated almost 400 years of religious life in Canada.

Keynote speaker, Timothy Radcliffe, OP, former master general of the Dominican Order, developed the theme and guided the assembly in reflecting on the future of religious life and the kind of leadership needed. To read more about the CRC and to download Radcliffe's comments, please click this hyperlink to the CRC website. www.crc-canada.org/main.cfm?c_siteLangue=_an.

A highlight of the celebration was a pilgrimage to the shrine of Sainte Anne de Beaupré where 1200 religious and laity gathered for a celebration of solemn vespers presided over by Cardinal Marc Ouellet, the archbishop of Quebec and the Cardinal Primate of Canada. To note the significance of almost 400 years of religious life in Canada, the CRC planted a young maple tree on the grounds of the basilica with an engraved stone at the base that reads: "Remembering for the Future/Canadian Religious Conference/June 7, 2008.

The Canadian Religious Conference partners with LCWR, CMSM, and CLAR (Confederation of Latin American Religious) as part of the InterAmerican network. It was important for LCWR to be present at the CRC assembly, and LCWR looks forward to having them with CMSM and LCWR in Denver in August.



Tips for Using the New LCWR Messaging System

- The new LCWR messaging system allows the national office to send messages to all members with a personalized greeting. When you receive a message from the national office with the heading shown above, know that this is a broadcast message sent to all members and that you are not the sole recipient.
- Although an option is provided with each message for its recipient to unsubscribe to these messages, please note that to do so will remove you from the online mailing list of LCWR and that you will no longer receive any online communications from the national office.



CRC president Donna Geernaert, SC and LCWR president Mary Whited, CPPS

Keynoter Timothy Radcliffe, OP



The maple tree planted by CRC in Quebec



LCWR Leading from Within Retreat Tampa, Florida — January 11-16, 2009

Watch for Retreat Registration Forms in September

LCWR will be offering for the fourth year its **Leading from Within Retreat**, a five-day experience designed for women religious serving in elected leadership.

The retreat will be led by Kaye Ashe, OP and María Elena Martínez, OSF and will be open to the first 25 LCWR members who register. (Only one person per leadership team may attend.) Registration forms will be sent online in early September.

Extractive Industries Committee Collaborates with OMI Project

The extractive industries sub-group of the Religious Working Group on Water (RWG), whose membership happens to be all Catholic organizations, including LCWR and CMSM, participated in a conference call with representatives of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI) to learn about the project they are undertaking to address increasing concerns in developing countries about the destructive impact of the mining industry. Several bishops in these countries have issued

statements expressing their concerns about the impact of mining on poor and indigenous communities.

The immediate objective of the OMI project is to gather common elements into one statement which will begin as a Catholic statement and probably become interfaith, and which can be brought to the World Bank and corporations with many signatures of faith organizations. OMI has been in dialogue with the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, Catholic Relief Services, and several Canadian and European organizations. Several members of the extractives committee have members in Africa, the Philippines, and South America and are enthused about being involved in the project.

LCWR Joins Campaign for a New American Policy with Iran

Concerned about drumbeats for military action against Iran by the current US administration, a number of organizations have launched a campaign to call for diplomacy, not threats of military intervention. The campaign's initial effort was a June 10 event and press conference on Capitol Hill attended by several congressional representatives, which offered participants an opportunity to talk with Iranians using a bank of 60s era red "hotline" phones.

In conjunction with the DC event, there was a national call-in day across the country. More than 50 people talked with people in Iran in an exercise of civilian diplomacy. A number of those who had conversations exchanged e-mail addresses. In addition, nearly 5,000 calls to senate offices were made urging support of S. 2130 which supports diplomacy with all of Iraq's neighbors, including Iran. The states making the highest number of calls are: California, 882; New York, 525; Washington, 248; Oregon, 232; Pennsylvania, 229. LCWR congregation members are counted in these calls.

From the LCWR Executive Director
What Does Leadership Look Like?

What does leadership look like? The city of Washington, DC is filled with memorials to national leaders. Some show triumphant generals, their swords raised high, their horses' hooves wildly combing the air. George Washington's memorial is the familiar white obelisk at the end of the mall opposite the Capitol and across from the White House. Thomas Jefferson stands by the Tidal Basin housed in a mini-Monticello, gazing westward towards the Louisiana Territory – the land (and the people of which) he acquired from France at a bargain price. And then there is the magnificent memorial to Abraham Lincoln. His huge hands holding the arms of a chair. He gazes out of sad eyes set in a deeply lined face at the visitors milling below, and - if a statue can really do this – he looks at each one kindly.

It might be difficult to sort out what true leadership looks like. So many of our images are unconsciously drawn from the history of war and conquest. And today, some of our notions come from the corporate world where achievement means having a corner office and where leaders are expected to practice all seven of the effective habits before they even have their morning coffee.

I can vividly recall a moment when I got a new understanding of leadership. It occurred about 30 years ago. Our whole province had gathered in Connecticut for a large celebration. I can't remember what the event actually was, but it must have been big because the bishop of Bridgeport was there to celebrate the main liturgy. All went smoothly until the middle of mass when one of our elderly and somewhat disoriented sisters walked to the front of the chapel, climbed the altar steps, and knelt down facing the bishop. He looked at her. He looked at us. He looked back at her again. Then the sister started to speak. Because she had a heavy accent no one knew for sure what she was saying. But what was certain was that the bishop and we were feeling a bit paralyzed by this unexpected turn of events. I know I was silently



Carole Shinnick, SSND

What I do remember was how the attentive presence of a leader to one of our most broken members offered a powerful and alternative picture of what a true leader looks like.

pleading, "Please, someone – anyone - get her off the altar!"

Then a tall figure stood up and moved towards the front. It was our provincial leader, Virginia. "Good," I thought. "She'll get her out of there." Virginia climbed the steps, and much to all of our surprise, knelt down next to the sister. By then everything had stopped. The bishop had stopped the liturgy. We had stopped our singing. Every eye was fixed on the kneeling pair. After a few minutes, Virginia gently put her hand under the sister's elbow. Then, slowly the two of them stood, turned, and walked down the altar stairs. The sister was smiling happily. Virginia looked quite relaxed. And we all started to breathe again.

These many years later, I cannot recall much about that celebration or even about Virginia's time in office. But what I do remember was how the attentive presence of a leader to one of our most broken members offered a powerful and alternative picture of what a true leader looks like.

Last week I was able to join the thousands who attended the wake for the nationally known political analyst, Tim Russert. Annmarie Sanders and I stood in a quiet line of people from all walks of life – news personalities and neighbors, political figures and ordinary folk. All had lined up to pay tribute to this ebullient, lover of life. They came not because he was an outstanding interviewer or a brilliant analyst. They came because his contagious enthusiasm for his family, his friends, his work, and his hometown of Buffalo reached through the TV screen and into people's hearts.

The card handed to visitors at the wake service included this quote of Tim's: "No exercise is better for the human heart than bending down to pick up another person." From my perspective, Virginia and Tim seemed to have gotten this leadership thing just right.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

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

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Franciscan Center
Tampa, Florida
 January 11 — 16, 2009

LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
 February 23 — 26, 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

LCWR New Leader Workshop
The Retreat Center at St. John's
Plymouth, Michigan
 March 11 — 14, 2010

LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
 August 10 — 14, 2010

LCWR Assembly
Garden Grove, California
 August 9 — 13, 2011

Convention for the Common Good in Final Planning

With registration well over 500 and sponsoring organizations working hard on finalizing the platform, content, liturgy, development, post-convention activity, and many, many details, the Convention for the Common Good (July 11-13) is becoming a reality. A number of participants from LCWR have engaged in the dialogue process and have been generous in offering to serve as table facilitators or hospitality volunteers. Soon it will all come together in Philadelphia where the goal is to approve a Platform for the Common Good that will be used by participating organizations to engage political representatives both before and after the national party conventions.

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

Be On The Watch For:

Generational Cultures Resources

Two powerpoint slide presentations on generational cultures written by Patricia Wittberg, SC will be available on CSRL's website in early July. Included with the presentations will be a bibliography for further reading and some process ideas for use of the slides in congregation gatherings. A direct link to the web page will be provided in next month's LCWR Update.

Tenth Anniversary Cotton Tote Bags

CSRL, as part of its tenth anniversary celebration, is giving away cotton tote bags at its LCWR-CMSM assembly exhibit booth. All are invited to stop by and get one to carry all of those CDs, cards, and other gifts purchased in the exhibit hall.

Now Available: Religious Formation Conference Resource Manual - Volume IV

- Role Descriptions and Models for Choosing, Assessing, and Valuing Formation Ministers
- Tools for Assessing Programs
- Formation for a Prophetic Way of Life
- Formation for Transfer Religious

One copy of the RFC Resource Manual, Volume IV, was sent to each member institute of RFC (by way of the named primary representative) in June 2008. A limited number of copies have been printed. Member institutes will have the opportunity until August 31, 2008, to order additional copies on a first come, first served basis. As of September 1, 2008, supply permitting, orders from auxiliary members and non-members will be accepted. Volume IV will not be reprinted. Orders for Volume IV will be filled as long as the supply lasts.

Volume IV

PRICE PER COPY (includes shipping)
Pre-paid orders only.

RFC Member Institutes in USA
\$50.00

RFC Member Institutes in Canada & Mexico
\$60.00

RFC Member Institutes in Other Countries
\$70.00

Institutes in the USA (NON-RFC members)
\$80.00

Institutes in Canada & Mexico (NON-RFC members)
\$90.00

Institutes in other countries (NON-RFC members)
\$100.00

Order Form: www.relforcon.org/members/4_m_library/manualorderfm.htm. The username and password are in every copy of the RFC newsletter, InFormation.

LRCR Renewal Time

Be a subscriber to the Legal Resource Center for Religious for 2008/2009. Renew your subscription or become a member. Current subscriptions for 2007/2008 will run out on June 30, 2008. Please go to www.lrcr.org for additional information.

Position 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, résumé and two (2) letters of reference to:

Daniel Ward, OSB
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