

Update

A Publication of the
Leadership Conference of Women Religious

December 2007

LCWR Offers Workshop for New and Returning Leaders

March 13 - 16, 2008 -- Plymouth, Michigan



TESTIMONY FROM 2007 WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

"This was an excellent team-building experience for new leaders and 'repeats.'"



"I would highly recommend this for new leaders. You receive great resources in a short period of time."

"The presenters were exceptional — inspirational and practical. I've been given much to reflect on as I return to leadership ministry."

"Even though I have been in leadership for six years, I am glad that all of us on our team, those of us who have been in leadership and those who were newer, came. The time together is so valuable."

"The opportunity to meet others in leadership, to network, to be affirmed in what we are doing, and to be challenged to go further is invaluable."

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- Relating with others in transitional times
- Dealing with difficult members
- Finding meaning in leadership
- Civil law issues
- How to talk with your attorney
- Healthy uses of common law
- Understanding financial reports
- Using resources for mission and member support
- Investments
- Spirituality of leadership
- Communicating internally and with the public
- Working with media

The registration form is available on the LCWR website at www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/NLW-Flyer08.pdf.

Forms and payment are due by December 7. Participation is limited.

FACULTY

Simone Campbell, SSS
Lynn Jarrell, OSU
Lynn M. Levo, CSJ
Hertha Longo, CSA
Mira Mosle, BVM
Nancy Schreck, OSF

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From the LCWR Presidency
Journeying into the New Landscape

by J. Lora Dambroski, OSF — LCWR President-Elect

Advent, time of preparation for the celebration of the mystery of the Incarnation. Emmanuel, God with us. We recall during this time a woman and a man who made a commitment to their God, their people, and each other. There was an invitation from outside of themselves, from Something bigger than themselves. They responded with “yes” and it changed their predictable life’s journey.



unlike any other that has gone before us. We are challenged by the demands of our culture, our government’s impact on our congregations, service of those who are immigrants in our midst, and, at the same time, living into what religious life is now and how what we do today impacts our tomorrow. This, too, is a beautiful and mysterious story.

Each time we, too, say “yes” to a new invitation, to ministry or service or relationship, we know that we are entering into a new place on our life’s jour-

This time of religious life is a mystery of call, challenge, and commitment unlike any other that has gone before us.

ney. We move ahead knowing that we will be impacted by others and that we will impact them.

So, what’s new about this? What’s new is the challenge of seeing, listening, and reflecting with focused attention on what may seem to be the predictable parts of our life’s journey.

During Advent Mary and Joseph are placed before us. We remember a woman and a man who made a commitment to God and each other. They did what it took on a day-to-day basis to be faithful to that commitment. They also did what was out of the ordinary. Being betrothed to one another was a public as well as personal challenge. They were persons on the move to respond to the government demands for registration and taxes. They were immigrants away from home giving birth to their first-born child. Being parents of this unusual child was an ongoing call into the unknown; their only stability, their trust in God and one another.

A beautiful and mysterious story that is still today a model for our own way of life. This time of religious life is a mystery of call, challenge, and commitment

We have many tools at our disposal for making this journey onto the new landscape of religious life... facilitators, studies, group reflections and planning, merging our resources for life and mission/ministry. What we are challenged to remember as we step onto and shape this new landscape is so simple that we may forget it. In our personal and public challenge as women religious of our time our stability, too, is our trust in God and one another. We are on this path together. Our “yes” is being invited into new expression.

I think of the lives of our religious congregations and of LCWR. As we take up the challenge of the *New Options* for the shaping and future of LCWR, our core commitment is not changing. Together we are being called to

Maybe we, like Mary and Joseph, have before us personal and public challenge to respond to the daily call into the unknown, our only stability being our trust in God and one another.

reflect, listen, and determine what is the next phase on our mysterious journey.

Maybe we, like Mary and Joseph, have before us personal and public challenge to respond to the daily call into the unknown, our only stability being our trust in God and one another.

LCWR Officers Move Conference Issues Forward

During November the LCWR officers attended various meetings in Maryland, where they represented the conference and attended to conference business.

Executive Committee Meeting

The LCWR executive committee met from the evening of November 5 through November 8, 2007. The meetings were held at Bon Secours Spirituality Center in Marriottsville, Maryland, and on the third day LCWR gathered with the CMSM executive committee at the Cameron Street Building in Silver Spring, Maryland. The executive committee is comprised of the three members of the presidency (Mary Whited, CPPS; Mary Dacey, SSJ; and J. Lora Dambroski, OSF), LCWR's secretary (Jeanne Bessette, OSF); treasurer (Maryann Summa, OP); two members of the national board elected by the regional chairs (Katie Clauss, IHM and Barbara Hagedorn, SC) and the executive director (Carole Shinnick, SSND).

The agenda included updates on the presidents' activities, a report from the finance committee and follow-up actions on issues brought forward from the national assembly and the post-assembly meeting of the national board.

The executive committee meeting with CMSM focused on issues of mutual concern: the jointly owned building at Cameron Street, the InterAmerican Committee meeting in March 2008 which will be hosted by CMSM and LCWR, the visits to the Vatican in 2008, and the 2008 joint assembly. Most of the agenda will be brought to the national boards of CMSM and LCWR for further discussion and input in February 2008.



John Klassen, OSB of the CMSM executive committee and Mary Whited, CPPS



Katie Clauss, IHM



Barbara Hagedorn, SC

Commission on Religious Life and Ministry

Each year, representatives from the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM), the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious (CMSWR), the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), and LCWR gather to look at issues related to religious life. The Commission on Religious Life and Ministry evolved from the Tri-Conference Commission which oversaw the National Religious Retirement Office. In 1994, after the Vatican approval of the formation of CMSWR, the fourth group was invited to join the commission and the name was changed to the Commission on Religious Life and Ministry.

Since 1994 the CRLM has been meeting twice a year – once in February and once in November. However, with the restructuring of the USCCB, the decision was made to eliminate the February meeting.

The most recent meeting began with reflection and sharing on John Allen's article, "Ten Megatrends Shaping the Catholic Church." Other items included a report from Janice Bader, CPPS, newly-appointed director of the National Religious Retirement Office, and a conversation about the recently-approved fund-raising norms.

Since the February CRLM meeting will no longer be held, a conference call involving the presidents/chairs and the executive directors/general secretaries of the four member groups will take place in April 2008. In addition, the USCCB's Committee on Consecrated Life, currently chaired by Bishop Terry Steib, SVD of Memphis will be placed under a new structure in keeping with the USCCB reorganization plan. The current committee which forms the group of bishops who meet with the CRLM, will become one of the subcommittees

(continued on page 4)

LCWR Officers Move Conference Issues Forward

(continued from page 3)

accountable to Cardinal Sean O'Malley of Boston. Other sub-committees involved in the same re-configuration include those on the diaconate, priestly vocations, priestly formation, priestly life and ministry, and vocations.



Some of the members of the Commission on Religious Life on Ministry: Gabrielle Mary Braccio, RSM; Paul Lininger (back to camera), Bishop Terry Steib, J. Lora Dambroski, OSF

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Representatives of LCWR attended the November meeting of the USCCB as observers. Mary Whited, CPPS, Mary Dacey, SSJ, J. Lora Dambroski, OSF and Carole Shinnick, SSND were present for most of the sessions open to observers. The meeting included the election of Cardinal Francis George, OMI of Chicago as the new president of the conference and of Bishop Gerald Kicanas, ordinary of the diocese of Tucson as the vice-president.

During the meeting, the bishops approved the voting guide for 2008, Faithful Citizenship. They also affirmed the direction of the redesign of the USCCB organization. On the opening day of the meeting, outgoing President William Skylstad of Spokane, shared a presidential statement calling on the US government to work in a bipartisan manner for a responsible transition in Iraq. The statement called for ending the war at the earliest opportunity and minimizing the loss of lives — both Iraqi and American.

The statement noted that the United States faces important challenges and decisions about the terrible dilemmas in Iraq. "Our nation must focus more on the ethics of exit than on the ethics of intervention. The morally and politically demanding but carefully limited goal of responsible transition should aim to reduce further loss

of life and address the humanitarian crisis in Iraq, the refugee crisis in the region, the need to help rebuild the country and human rights, especially religious freedom."

As observers at the USCCB meeting, the LCWR representatives have the opportunity to interact informally with the bishops concerning items on the agenda and other matters, particularly at the coffee breaks and during the luncheon period.

Plan to Order the 2008 LCWR Reflection Book, *At the Edge of Tomorrow*

LCWR will be publishing a new daily reflection book entitled, *At the Edge of Tomorrow*. The reflections in this year's book will be focused on what it takes to live courageously into an unknown future. The hope is that the book will inspire people to move forward with a sense of deep hope, a desire to be creative, a willingness to dwell with unanswered questions, and a sense of excitement about what might be ahead as religious life stands on the edge of tomorrow.

The reflections in the book are designed for use between May 31 and July 22.

The book contains reflections by 53 LCWR members on the words of various writers and thinkers on visioning, as well as on related passages of scripture. The objectives of this publication are:

- Provide LCWR members with a spiritual tool that can aid their reflection on significant themes pertinent to religious life.
- Provide LCWR members with a resource that can be shared as well with their own members.
- Foster a bond of unity in prayer among LCWR members, other women religious, and anyone else who wishes to utilize the reflections. More than 20,000 copies of each of the last four LCWR reflection books were sold, enabling many people to join in prayer around a common theme.

LCWR members, associates, and subscribers will receive a copy of the publication. Information on ordering additional copies will be sent from the LCWR national office in upcoming weeks.

History Project Continues to Evolve

The LCWR history exhibit continues to evolve, promising to become something far more exciting than anything the committee could ever have envisioned. There has been a shift in the company LCWR is using for the overall design and execution. Originally the conference contracted with Design Island of Orlando. However, due to some significant changes in leadership of that company and staff changes, LCWR is now working with Nancy Seruto, CEO of Seruto and Company of Pasadena, California. The great news is that Nancy has been an advisor to the project ever since the very first charrette in 2005, and she has contracted to employ many of the same personnel who have been working on the project including Mellissa Berry, formerly of Design Island.

From October 30 through November 1, 2007 some members of the history committee met with several of the key persons in the design and creation of the exhibit at the offices of Seruto and Company. The primary work of that meeting was to lay out an overall timeline as well as a strategy for engaging venues for the exhibit. Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Mary Dacey, SSJ; Karen Kennelly, CSJ; Constance Phelps, SCL; and Carole Shinnick, SSND represented the committee at the Pasadena meeting.

On November 17, Karen Kennelly flew to Baltimore in order to spend time with Constance FitzGerald, OCD at the Baltimore Carmelite Monastery. The Baltimore Carmel is very significant in the history of women religious in the United States. The monastery was founded in 1790 and is the first foundation of women religious in the original 13 colonies. The monastery has an enormous number of precious documents and artifacts in their holdings. Karen, an eminent historian of religious life herself, spent three days with Constance identifying which of the artifacts might best be made available for the exhibit.

Additional updates will be provided in the LCWR *Update* and the History Exhibit newsletter as the project continues to take shape.



Karen Kennelly, CSJ; Helen Maher Garvey, BVM and Jennifer Bressler, a graphic artist working on the history exhibit meet at the offices of Seruto and Company in Pasadena.



Anna Schlobohm de Cruder, production manager with Seruto and Company with Mary Dacey, SSJ and Constance Phelps, SCL



Karen Kennelly, CSJ and Constance FitzGerald, OCD identify artifacts from the Baltimore Carmelite Monastery for possible inclusion in the history exhibit.

THE Occasional Papers

LCWR is about to publish the Winter 2008 issue of *The Occasional Papers*, the focus of which comes from this year's assembly theme, "The Next Frontier: Religious Life at the Edge of Tomorrow." Some of the articles in this issue include:

- An interview with Ray Dlugos, OSA on shifting concepts of religious life leadership, working through change, religious identity, and dealing with ambivalence. Ray is the chief executive officer of Southdown Institute and has presented workshops for clergy and religious throughout North America.
- An interview with Luisa M. Saffiotti, PhD on how organizations can live on the edge of change, religious life in an in-between time, and leadership during a time of deep transformation. Luisa is a psychologist and spiritual director who provides consultation, education, and clinical services to religious communities both nationally and internationally and formerly was on the staff of St. Luke Institute.
- Insights into living religious life at the edge of tomorrow. Thirteen LCWR members explore their insights into ideas gleaned from the LCWR assembly, including what it means to live "in the nowhere between two somewheres," seeing this moment in religious life as a time for possibility and creativity, and the new frontiers to which religious may be called.

All LCWR members, associates and subscribers will receive a copy of this publication. Additional copies may be ordered by completing the form on the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/lcwrpublications/LCWRO-Pordersw08.dot. Orders must be received by December 3. Only the number of copies pre-ordered will be printed.

Questions regarding orders may be directed to Carol Glidden at cglidden@lcwr.org or 301-588-4955.

LCWR Finance Committee Works on Budget and Revised Dues Structure

The LCWR Finance Committee met in Silver Spring on October 29 and 30. The committee welcomed Pam Chiesa, PBVM (Region 14) as its newest member and thanked Jean Keniry, OSF (Region 11), outgoing member of the committee, for her five years of service. The two major outcomes of the meeting were a recommendation to the executive committee for the 2008 conference budget as well as for a revised dues structure for 2009.

LCWR participates in several funds managed by Christian Brothers Investment Services. The Finance Committee raised some questions about results of socially responsible investment policies as implemented by CBIS. The committee noted, for example, that CBIS funds own stock in Wal-Mart in order to engage in dialogue with management regarding their business practices. The committee was pleased to hear a summary of progress made through these dialogues. CBIS provides information about this on their website at www.cbisonline.com under Socially Responsible Investments and the sub-category Shareholder Advocacy Directory.

The committee is aware that many communities are actively boycotting some companies and that other communities enter into shareholder resolutions or dialogues with management on issues of importance. It also realizes that it is important to be aware of progress that these various strategies bring about. LCWR members are encouraged to check with their own investment advisors or managers or with ICCR to get updated information. The information that CBIS provides on its own advocacy activities is available in the public section of their website and they welcome use of the site.

The committee will meet again in Silver Spring on April 14-15, 2008. Other members of the committee are: Maryann Summa, OP, LCWR treasurer; Rose Jochmann, OSF; Geraldine Hoyler, CSC; Mary Persico, IHM; Alice Coté, RJM; and Pat Cormack, SCSC (staff).

Water and Extractive Industries Committee Hears from Honduras

A staff member of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) spoke to the Water and Extractive Industries Committee about the recent visit of Bishop Luis Alfonso Santos to Washington to address abuses of US mining companies (other countries are also involved) in Honduras. One third of the country is ceded to mining interests of multiple companies mining gold, silver, lead, and zinc. Much of the mining is open pit, yet companies pay only 1% tax to municipalities, supposedly for clean-up. The Civil Alliance for Democracy, a coalition including the Catholic church, has written a document promoting a reform law, but it is impeded by the president of the national assembly. Bishop Santos himself has received death threats.

Points of entry for advocacy may be human rights; road building; environmental sustainability; health issues; governance issues, e.g. trade; and criminalization of social protestors. The committee discussed the importance of regional work, since Guatemala and Mexico face like problems, and groups in El Salvador are working to prevent mining companies from exploiting the country in similar ways. It was noted that mining has not been part of trade agreement negotiations.

Global Concerns Committee Plans for 2008 Joint Assembly

During their October 29-31 meeting in Aston, Pennsylvania, the LCWR Global Concerns Committee (GCC) reviewed the first draft of a joint assembly resolution on climate change, and considered ways to incorporate the issue of climate change into the assembly theme, "On This Holy Mountain." Ideas will be discussed with a member of the assembly planning committee who is on-site in Denver. The resolution will also be reviewed by the CMSM Justice and Peace Committee before a final draft is sent to the regions for review.

The GCC also identified topics for future Resolutions to Action, planned for the spring joint meeting with CMSM, and discussed how LCWR might follow through on the Crossroads Ministry Anti-Racism workshop attended by LCWR's associate director for social mission.

The GCC also considered implementation of the two 2007 assembly resolutions. (Because the 2006 resolution on torture was an endorsement of the CMSM resolution, and the proposed resolution for 2005 was not approved by the assembly, there has been no request for implementation responses for the past two years.) The GCC will send a simple implementation form to region chairs for dissemination to members and compilation at the spring meetings as in past years. Responses to the 2007 Sabbath Year resolution will focus on the call for participation in the fast and advocacy for the Jubilee Act. In responding to the resolution on wetlands and coastlands, members might share what is being done with congregational properties (e.g., a committee member shared that her congregation recently signed a conservation easement agreement so its land will remain as wetlands, farmland, and woods "in perpetuity"), share awareness of educational materials, or other activities related to wetlands in their respective local areas.

Janice Bader, CPPS Heads National Religious Retirement Office

Janice Bader, CPPS has been named director of the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO). She had been the office's interim director since the death in July of Andrée Fries, CPPS, who had been director since 2000.



The NRRO is jointly sponsored by LCWR, the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious. The general secretary or executive director of each group makes up the management board of the Commission on Consecrated Life, which oversees the office and chooses the director.

"Sister Janice has the business acumen to oversee a collection which draws in about \$30 million annually, the sensitivity to the needs of the tens of thousands of men and women religious around the nation, and the faith to know God will guide her work," said a statement by the management board that accompanied the announcement of her appointment.

Presentation on Cluster Munitions Precedes Bi-Annual NRP Meeting

The October 22 bi-annual meeting of the National Religious Partnership (NRP) on nuclear weapons danger was preceded by a presentation on “Cluster Munitions: The Bomb That Keeps on Killing” by two women from Laos and two men from Lebanon. The speakers were in Washington, DC to meet with members of Congress to share horrific stories of children who have been killed in recent years by US cluster bombs dropped 40 years ago, and to urge congressional action. At least 75 countries stockpile cluster munitions, with the US stockpile alone totaling close to one billion. Legislation placing controls on the use and transfer of cluster bombs is currently pending in both the Senate and House: The Cluster Munitions Civilian Protection Act of 2007 (S. 594 and HR 1755).

During the NRP meeting, legislative updates were provided on funding for the RRW (Reliable Replacement Warhead) with the House deleting all funding and the Senate willing to accept minimal funding; and on the Complex 2030 bomb plant, for which all four committees zeroed out funding. In anticipation of new hearings on Complex 2030 beginning in January or February, NRP will focus on building local activism in key states: CA, NM, SC, TX, and TN. Other reports included the development of a Muslim-Christian Initiative in relation to Iran, and a Campaign to Protect the Most Vulnerable by setting radiation and multiple exposure environmental health standards to protect pregnant women, nursing mothers, fetuses, and children.

Cardinal McCarrick Convenes Meeting of Catholic Education and Social Ministry Leaders

Under the auspices of the Catholic Bishops’ Committees on Education, Domestic Policy, and International Policy, a Task Force on Catholic Social Teaching was established 10 years ago to assess and strengthen efforts to incorporate Catholic social thought into educational programs. A summary report was issued by the bishops in 1998 urging Catholic educators to do more.

On November 5, 2007 Cardinal Theodore McCarrick convened and chaired a meeting of selected leaders to review and celebrate what has been accomplished and share ideas about what more can be done. Representatives from elementary, secondary, higher education, parish adult education, youth ministry, and seminary education participated. LCWR was represented by Marie Lucey, OSF, associate director for social mission. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) shared copies of a new resource, *Engaging Faith in the World: Exploring Catholic Social Teaching and Global Solidarity* compiled by the National Catholic Education Association and CRS.

NETWORK Board Makes Significant Decisions

For the past year, the board of NETWORK has been researching and discussing the “same pay” policy which has been in place since the inception of NETWORK more than 35 years ago. A committee of the board undertook a study of the issue, including a survey of current members of the staff, most of whom prefer to retain the policy that every staff member receive the same pay without differentiation of position. The board considered the pros and cons of changing the policy in light of today’s realities. The decisions made at the October 25-28 meeting were: no changes to the same pay policy will be made at this time, given both NETWORK’s current financial situation and the staff’s response to the survey; the staff will receive the committee report and the board will continue discussion and research; at the April 2008 meeting a new committee will be named to develop next steps.

The board also affirmed NETWORK’s leadership of a “Convention for the Common Good” to be held July 11-13, 2008 in Philadelphia with the sponsorship of a number of Catholic organizations. This convention precedes those of both the Democrat and Republican parties and is envisioned as a vehicle for developing an alternative platform based on Catholic social teachings to be submitted to both political parties. The board also developed several benchmarks against which progress in planning the convention will be measured.

The NEP (Network Education Program) invited board members (as well as LCWR regions and/or congregations) to host an Election Year Workshop in preparation for the 2008 elections by contacting Sara Dwyer, ASC at sdwyer@networklobby.org.

From the LCWR Executive Director
Advent's Gifts

Sometimes it is really hard for me to get started on this column. Today is one of those days. It is the Saturday after Thanksgiving and I am still in a semi-stupor brought on by stuffed mushrooms, sweet potatoes, pecan pie, and inordinate globs of whipped cream. And frankly I am taken by surprise to find us once again at the edge of Advent in a year that is already moving all too quickly.

Advent speaks of waiting and patience. But I find myself wanting to slow things down to savor the present. Remember the old commercial for Heinz ketchup – “the slow ketchup” – set to Carly Simon’s *Anticipation*? The suggestion was that anticipation of an upcoming event (in this case ketchup plopping on a hamburger) is even better than the real thing. And often that is the case.

Each year, the ancient advent readings seem ever more contemporary to me. No antique writings these, from some forgotten backwater in time. Rather Isaiah, Zachariah, and



Carole Shinnick, SSND

It is difficult to stay in Advent’s space when the pace of the season is so harried. It is hard to hear Advent’s promise over the loudspeaker’s tinny “Silver Bells.” It is a challenge to focus on Emmanuel when Rudolph and Frosty crowd the stage. But Advent is a gift given only for a brief winter moment, and we miss it at our own peril.

Advent observance may be particularly critical for leaders. The season reminds us that there are more important ways to serve than signing Christmas cards and serving the Christmas party punch. Perhaps more than anyone, leaders need to hear, and in turn to tell others the essential good news of the season. It is simply this. Our God lives among us. Our God wears our skin, dreams our dreams, knows our hearts, and shares our disappointments. Our God is here, not in the straw-strewn stable of Bethlehem but in Idaho and Iraq, in Pennsylvania and Palestine, in Nebraska and Nigeria.

Perhaps this is the only gift really worth giving – the reassurance of God with us who does not judge us as we judge ourselves, who loves our every effort (even the ones that fizzle) and who sees our core goodness when we most doubt it. No wonder by the end of Advent if we’ve really

*Advent is deep blue and mysterious.
 It is a lone cello playing in the night.
 It is the thinnest thread of light
 taut on the eastern horizon.*

Jeremiah hold forth like holy pundits commenting on the headlines of our day. And what headlines they are. *Pakistani Constitution Suspended. Two Million Iraqi Refugees Flood Syria and Jordan. Thousands Homeless in Wake of Bangladesh Cyclones. Fifty Million Americans Uninsured. Polar Icecap Disappearing.* The Advent scriptures beg to be read - Bible in one hand, daily newspaper in the other.

Advent is deep blue and mysterious. It is a lone cello playing in the night. It is the thinnest thread of light taut on the eastern horizon. It is a whispered word of solace in anxious times: “Comfort, comfort my people.” Advent plumbs our deepest yearnings for reassurance, for direction, for hope. It floods us with visions of miraculous events — lions and lambs, abundant banquets, flowering deserts. Advent offers messages so sacred that they can only be heard in silence and can only be read by candlelight.

*Advent plumbs our deepest yearnings for
 reassurance, for direction,
 for hope.
 It floods us with visions of
 miraculous events —
 lions and lambs,
 abundant banquets,
 flowering deserts.*

been paying attention, we need to sing with the astonished angels, “Gloria in excelsis Deo!”

A blessed Advent to each of you.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

Redemptorist Renewal Center

Tucson, Arizona

January 20 — 25, 2008

Systemic Change Think Tank

Franciscan Renewal Center

Scottsdale, Arizona

February 4 — 7, 2008

LCWR New Leader Workshop

The Retreat Center at St. John's

Plymouth, Michigan

March 13 — 16, 2008

LCWR-CMSM Joint Assembly

Denver, Colorado

August 1 — 4, 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



October 24: A letter to senators to support the Nuclear Policy and Posture Review Act of 2007 (S.1914) which would eliminate funding for the RRW (Reliable Replacement Warhead).

November 7: A letter to congress to support the Clean Water Restoration Act (S.1870; HR 2421).

November 9: A letter to House Judiciary Committee Chair, John Conyers, in support of changes to the Re-authorization of the Trafficking Victim's Protection Act which would create a new federal crime of sex trafficking by using language of "persuades, induces, or entices" in lieu of "force, fraud, or coercion." In addition, the language includes a strong provision against sex tourism, and directs the Justice Department to revise its model law in line with these changes.



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New Statistics Available About Men and Women Considering Religious Vocations

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC), in cooperation with TrueQuest Communications, recently released a summary report of the statistics of those men and women who filled out profiles for VocationMatch.com from August 2006 through July 2007. This new interactive feature to the Vision website had a phenomenal record of 5,591 respondents. These statistics will be of particular interest to major superiors as well as vocation and formation directors. This information may be accessed at: www.vocation-network.org/articles/read/105?advertiser=1

NRVC owes special gratitude to Patrice Tuohy and the TrueQuest staff for their remarkable creativity as they continue to reach out in innovative ways through sophisticated, cutting-edge technology to thousands of men and women discerning their vocation.

Upcoming LRCR Workshop San Antonio, Texas

More details available at www.lrcr.org

RECONFIGURATION BEST PRACTICES: Civily, Canonically, Culturally

February 11-13, 2008
Hilton San Antonio Airport

Faculty:

Janet Fleischhacker, CSJ
Stephen Glodek, SM
Lynn Jarrell, OSU, JCD
Mark MacDougall, JD
Mary Reichert, JD
Daniel Ward, OSB, JD, JCL

Hilton San Antonio Airport
Rate \$99 plus tax

Subscriber Registration Fee: \$450
Group Rate for
three or more from same institute/firm: \$400

Religious Formation Conference: Follow-Up to 2007 Congress

Videotapes, audiotapes, and written transcripts of the keynote speakers and seminar presenters at RFC's recent national congress in Pittsburgh are available for individuals and congregations that would like to use them as resources for further reflection and discussion.

The theme of the congress, "Compelled by the Spirit to be Fire," was enlivened by the keynote speakers as Carol Zinn, SSJ challenged religious to attend to the needs of the world; Fintan Sheeran, SSCC reflected on a changing church; and David Blanchard, O Carm called for transformation in religious life.

Seminars included Forming for a Prophetic Way of Life, with Luisa M. Saffiotti; Attending Psycho-Sexual Development in the Formative Process, with Quinn Connors, O Carm; The Future of Religious Life, with Mary Charlotte Chandler, RSCJ; Formative Communities: Challenging our Death Wish, with Don Bisson, FMS; Compelled by the Spirit of Church Law to Liberate, with Lynn Jarrell, OSU; and Integrating an Ecological Perspective within the Formative Process, with Lyn Szymkiewicz, CSJ.

More information is available on the RFC website, at www.relforcon.org, or by contacting the RFC office at relforcon@relforcon.org

Mary Emil Penet Award

Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD, vice president and academic dean of Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, was presented in absentia with the Mary Emil Penet Award by the RFC at its 2007 congress.

The award is named after the first director of the Sister Formation Conference, which was the forerunner of the RFC. It is presented to honor an individual or group who has invested energy and insight to make a contribution to formation work for women and men religious.

Riebe-Estrella was unable to attend the congress due to illness. He will receive it at CTU in June when RFC's ForMission program is in residency there.

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

Are Your Congregational Materials in the Religious Life Collection?

The Center for the Study of Religious Life, located at Catholic Theological Union, facilitates the collection of materials for the Religious Life Collection of the Paul Bechtold Library at CTU. This collection is a repository for documents and studies on Roman Catholic religious institutes of men and women in the United States and is one of the strongest collections on religious life in North America.

Religious institutes are asked to send copies of their constitutions, directories, histories, formation plans, studies, and dissertations to CSRL in order to make the collection more complete. A community can check to see if its documents are represented in the CTU Religious Life Collection, by going to www.religious-life.org/research/books.html.

Research Link-of-the-Month

Religious Orders Study of Rush University Medical Center Alzheimer's Disease Center, www.rush.edu/rumc/page-1099611542043.html.

A long-term collaborative study with Rush and other medical centers in the US begun in 1993, it includes more than 1,000 older sisters, brothers, and priests with medical and psychological evaluations each year and brain donation after death. Current funding continues through 2011. Participants represent four arch/dioceses, 21 women's communities, and 12 men's communities.

A recent report from the study, Low Level of Conscientiousness May Be a Risk Factor for Alzheimer's Disease, is available at www.rush.edu/webapps/MEDREL/servlet/NewsRelease?id=942.