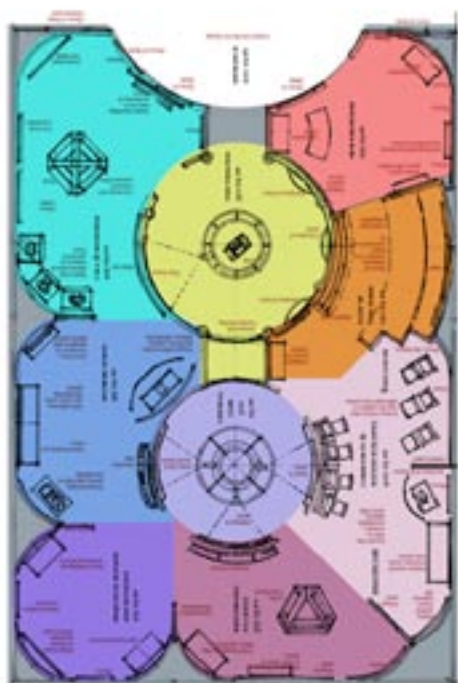


Religious Life At the Edge of Tomorrow

Don't miss the opportunity to explore the new frontiers of religious life at the LCWR assembly, August 1 - 4



Museum exhibit floor plan

pioneers *Poets* & PROPHETS CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

Work is progressing on “Pioneers, Poets & Prophets: Catholic Sisters in America,” the museum exhibit project sponsored by LCWR. In May the LCWR History Committee met with Mellissa Berry of Design Island and reviewed the first design draft of the exhibit. The draft includes a floor plan and an overview of the look, feel, and purpose of each section of the exhibit as well as ideas on appropriate artifacts to illustrate the stories that will be told. The artifact information is based on the digital images and descriptions supplied by congregations of women religious across the country. Elements from the design draft can be seen on page 4.

Inside this issue:

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- 5 LCWR Regions Actively Oppose Human Trafficking

A representative from Lord Cultural Resources, Maria Piacente, also joined the history committee at its meeting in St. Louis. Lord will be working with LCWR and Design Island in securing suitable venues for the exhibit in museums throughout the US.

LCWR members will be kept updated on the design of the exhibit and on the fundraising efforts as the conference works towards its \$3 million goal.

From the LCWR Presidency

A Roadmap for an Unknown Future

by Mary Dacey, SSJ — LCWR President

Despite the heat and the humidity, our motherhouse chapel was filled with family members, friends, associates, and many, many sisters. They had gathered to celebrate the first vow ceremony of our newest member. The air could barely contain the anticipation and the excitement of those gathered. For many of us it was a reminder our own vows made long ago or more recently. Grace was in abundance.



young woman pronounce her vows, I wondered what the future would hold for her. And I wondered what she was wondering as she faced the crowd of predominantly graying members.

Like so many other congregations, we have tried to prepare for the future. We have assessed healthcare programs and made financial projections. We have engaged in planning around housing, properties, and our sponsored works. We have dealt with diminishment and aging and the diverse needs of those

Forty years ago at my first vows the weather was just as hot and sticky. The ceremony was just as inspirational. The motherhouse chapel was just as full. Only the numbers were different, dramatically

moving from full-time ministry to retirement. Through it all we have tried to focus on our mission and the transformation to which we are called by these times. And yet, with all these plans...so much depends upon hope.

*As I watched this young woman
pronounce her vows,
I wondered what the future
would hold for her.*

different. Then there were 90 young women making first vows, one sister sponsor for each and two close family members in attendance.

I know the hope that carries me. I know that God calls me to something that I cannot see clearly but that I know with certainty. I believe that I can embrace this call not in spite of diminishment and loss, but because of them. Yet, I wonder what hope carries her? What calls her and keeps her? To what does she cling? And, what does she expect from and of me? What is the legacy that I can give to her?

The similarity and the difference between these two scenes are compelling. In her brief time in religious life, this young novice, like the rest of our newer members, has had a big fuss made over her but has not enjoyed the companionship of many peers. The members of our congregation are delighted and energized by the new life that she brings and take every opportunity to let her know what a gift she is. We older members, on the other hand, enjoyed considerably less fuss and a lot more companionship in our formative years. And though we knew that we were a gift to the congregation, we were probably more concerned with measuring up to our older members, of which there were many. In any event, our future seemed secure. As I watched this

I suppose in the long run the most I can offer is to be her sister. To be and to live the relationship that she

*I suppose in the long run
the most I can offer
is to be her sister.*

described in her thank you to the congregation. "Thank you for the countless hours...walking with me, nurturing me, hearing me, companioning me, living with me, challenging me, teaching me, loving me."

Not a bad roadmap for an unknown future.

LCWR Executive Committee Meets in New Jersey

The members of the Executive Committee met from May 23 to 26 in Harvey Cedars, New Jersey. The Sisters of Charity of Convent Station, New Jersey hosted the meeting at their retreat and conference center on the Jersey Shore. Although the committee worked hard, the setting offered many opportunities for relaxing as well.

The meeting focused on preparing for the upcoming assembly and included a conference call with Mary Mollison, CSA who will be the assembly facilitator. The presidency reported on the April trip to Rome and a variety of other meetings including the March InterAmerican meeting in Montreal and the board meeting for the Center for the Study of Religious Life.

Additional reports include an update on the FADICA-LCWR initiative with the sisters in New Orleans, the history exhibit project, and the prospectus on several programs planned for the coming year.

As always, Maryann Summa OP, the LCWR treasurer presented a financial report to the executive committee and prepared for her annual report to the members at the 2007 assembly.

The May meeting is one of two face-to-face meetings of the Executive Committee. The other meeting occurs in November in conjunction with the meeting of the US bishops' conference. All other business throughout the year is addressed during three scheduled conference calls in January, March and July as well as by e-mail consultation as needed.

Members of the executive committee meet in NJ: (left) Maureen Shaughnessy, SC; Margaret Mayce, OP; and Mary Whited, CPPS (right) Maryann Summa, OP and Mary Dacey, SSJ.

Present but not pictured were: Bea Eichten, OSF; Jeanne Bessette, OSF; and Carole Shinnick, SSND



LCWR Hires New Associate Director for Business and Finance

LCWR is pleased to announce that Pat Cormack, SCSC has been hired as the new associate director for business and finance. Pat is a member of the Sisters of Mercy of the Holy Cross from Merrill, Wisconsin.



Having recently completed her term as provincial, Pat brings with her experience in formation work, as well as service in a wide variety of diocesan positions including chancellor of the diocese of Great Falls-Billings, Montana; director of the Institute for Ministry in Gaylord, Michigan; and coordinator of lay development for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

She holds graduate degrees in religious education from St. John University in Collegeville, Minnesota and in organizational development from Loyola University in Chicago.

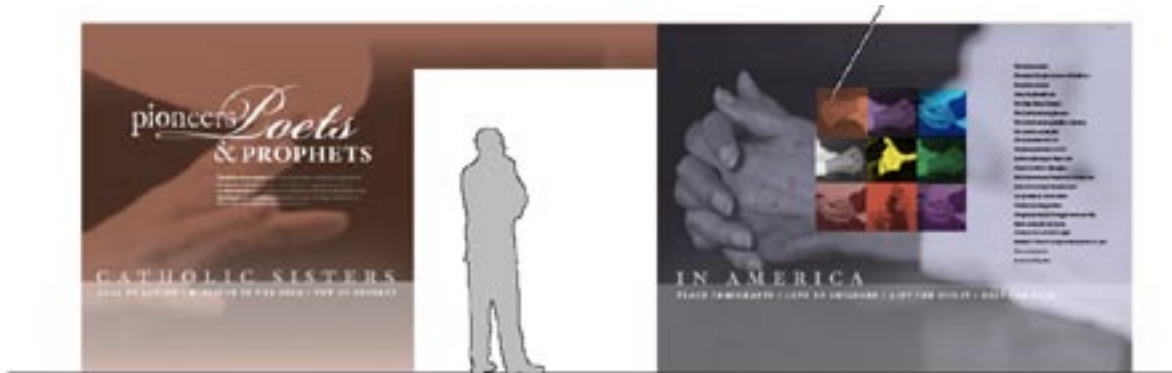
Pat will be present at the LCWR assembly in Kansas City, where she will be working with Eleanor Granger, OSF. At the close of the assembly, Eleanor will complete her six-year term on the LCWR staff.



pioneers *Poets* & PROPHETS

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

The artworks below are some of the pieces produced by Design Island as a first draft of the overall look of the museum exhibit on the contributions of Catholic sisters to US history and culture.



pioneers Poets & PROPHETS ENTRANCE & THRATER



pioneers Poets & PROPHETS CALL & RESPONSE



pioneers Poets & PROPHETS COMMUNITY & NATION BUILDING

LCWR Represented at DC Interfaith Convocation

LCWR president Mary Dacey, SSJ represented the conference at the second Interfaith Convocation on Hunger held on June 11 at Washington's National Cathedral. Organized by Bread for the World and sponsored by the Interfaith Anti-Hunger Coordinators, the event brought together leaders of Roman Catholic; orthodox, evangelical, and ecumenical Protestant denominations; Buddhist; Hindu; Sikh; Muslim; and Jewish traditions; and other faith groups to call on President Bush and congress to renew their commitment to end hunger. Nearly 1000 people attended.



Mary, who co-led the commitment prayer that closed the service, noted, "Hunger and poverty are not isolated issues. Rather, they are deeply connected to the values we espouse and the simple choices we make each day. It is the responsibility of all of us to work for right relationships in all places and for all peoples — always remembering that it is God who gathers us and God who compels us to sow seeds of justice that will produce bread for the world."

LCWR Participates in Pax Christi USA's Anti-Racism Workshop

In response to Pax Christi's invitation to a number of its partner organizations, LCWR associate director Marie Lucey, OSF participated in an anti-racism workshop May 17-19 conducted by Crossroads Ministry, An Interfaith and Community Based Anti-Racism Training Organization. Other organizations participating included CMSM, NETWORK, the Mexican American Cultural Center, Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Relief Services, Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, National Asian Pacific Catholic Organizations, National Black Sisters Conference, Tekawitha Conference, and several LCWR member congregations.

Anyone who has taken part in a Crossroads Ministry workshop knows that it is intense and challenging, especially for those enjoying "white privilege." Near the end of the program, participants were asked to identify where they thought their respective organization lay along a continuum of becoming an anti-racist multicultural institution between the poles of exclusive and fully inclusive. Many (including LCWR's representative) situated their organization midway along the continuum, between symbolic change and identity change. Each organization now has to answer for itself: do we want to become a fully inclusive, anti-racist organization, and, if so, how do we plan to get there?

Many LCWR Regions Actively Address Human Trafficking

In response to a quick, informal survey, most LCWR regions reported varying degrees of involvement with the issue of human trafficking, from beginning an education process to providing hospitality to women who are trafficked. Twenty-one congregations have taken a corporate stand on the issue, and several others are in process. This survey was included in the LCWR report during the meeting of the Coalition of Catholic Organizations Against Human Trafficking on June 5, 2007.

The guest speaker at the coalition meeting was Robert J. Moosy, new director of the Human Trafficking Protection Unit at the US Department of Justice, who provided a description of the work of this special unit. As a prosecutor of traffickers, Mr. Moosy described the phases of a trafficking case, which usually takes up to two years from the initial investigation to trial, and provided examples of recent disturbing cases. Since 2001, 286 of the 404 defendants prosecuted by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice and US Attorneys' offices, in trafficking-related cases, have been charged with or pled guilty to violating statutes under the TVPA (Trafficking Victims Protection Act) of 2000, which is up for reauthorization this year. The TVPA provides funds only for those already victimized, not for prevention, and is being reviewed for areas of both support and concern.

Fr. Don Woznicki of New Ethos, provided an update on the Lionsgate film, *Trade*, to be released on September 7, 2007 and on the "Faith in Action" companion/study guide which is in process.

Comprehensive Immigration Bill Fighting for its Life

Many LCWR members have been calling their senators at each stage of the immigration bill's struggle in the Senate during the past month. Obstructionists seem to have won the day, but Majority Leader Harry Reid projected a return to the bill, and on June 8, Bishop Gerald Barnes of San Bernardino, chair of the USCCB's Committee on Migration, called on the Senate to return to a consideration of comprehensive immigration reform legislation as soon as possible. "Our nation cannot afford to wait to resolve this important humanitarian issue," declared Bishop Barnes.

During the Justice for Immigrants Core Group meeting on June 13, members were advised to inform their constituents that the bill may return to the Senate floor before July 4, so calls to Senators before then were strongly urged insisting that the confidentiality provisions are restored and family reunification areas improved. These provisions are essential to the position of the USCCB.



In recent weeks, LCWR has signed on to the following letters and statement:

End Oil Aid letter to Representatives urging them to cosponsor HR 1886, the End Oil Aid Act which would limit US-funded international financial institutions and export development agencies from subsidizing the oil and gas industry's overseas operations. LCWR agrees with the implications of this act for alleviating poverty and addressing climate change.

Blessed Are the Peacemakers Statement sent to President Bush prior to his meeting with Pope Benedict XVI. Also issued as a press release, the statement initiated by NETWORK and Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, calls on the president to heed the words of the Holy Father on the Iraq war as a moral and humanitarian crisis.



(Standing) Marie Lucey, OSF; Marianne Benson; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; Honora L. Precourt; Carol Crowder; Carol Glidden; Eleanor Granger, OSF (Seated) Carole Shinnick, SSND and Kathy Galleher

LCWR National Office Staff Evaluation and Planning Day

On May 30, the LCWR national office staff gathered to spend the day evaluating their work as a staff and planning for the coming year.

Kathy Galleher, PhD joined the staff for part of the day as a follow-up to her presentation at the office in September on the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator and its application to the workplace. In addition to discussing individual Myers-Briggs typologies and how these types might interact in a work environment, Kathy provided information on the staff's composite profile (INFJ).

Updates on issues signed onto last month:

Letter of 27 national organizations to Senate Armed Services Committee urging denial of funding for the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW): outcome a victory — funding denied.

Letter to President Bush urging him to work with G8 partners in support of urgent action to address critical links between global warming and global poverty: due to the president's resistance to specific goals and actions, outcome a mere general commitment by the G8 countries to address global warming.

From the LCWR Executive Director

Now I Become Myself

*Now I become myself. It's taken
Time, many years and places;
I have been dissolved and shaken,
Worn other people's faces...¹*



Carole Shinnick, SSND

Perhaps you have seen him, too. His name is Paul Potts. He is a cell phone salesman from Cardiff, Wales who appeared on the overseas TV show, *Britain's Got Talent*. If you haven't seen the video clip of his performance which has appeared repeatedly on television shows and news in the United States, it is well worth watching. If you would like to see it, this hyperlink will take you to the four-minute segment: www.youtube.com/watch?v=1k08yxu57NA&mode=related&search

In the piece, you will see Paul, tieless and dressed in a rumpled suit, looking clearly shy and nervous. One of the judges asks him, "Paul, what are you here for today?" Struggling to appear confident, he says that he is there to sing opera. The three judges glance at each other barely concealing their belief that they are about

*Palmer identifies
seductive expectations of others
as one of the obstacles to discovering
our true selves.*

to be painfully bored. The notoriously caustic lead judge, Simon Cowell, nods resignedly to Paul and says "OK. Ready when you are." With that, Paul gathers all his courage and begins. His voice is strong — a pure, rich tenor. He sings the well-known aria popularized by Luciano Pavarotti, Puccini's "Nessun Dorma" from *Turandot*. The audience, the judges are absolutely gob-smacked by Paul's performance.

When I first saw this clip on *Good Morning, America* I simply wept. It wasn't just his singing that touched me — it was Paul himself. In an interview just before going on the show, Paul admits that he has always struggled with self-confidence. Then he appears on the stage. He looks like someone who has come to expect disappointment, perhaps even ridicule. Maybe he even

notices the knowing look exchanged by the judges just before he performs. But in addition to looking scared, Paul also seems to have decided that this is his life's critical moment — one that will determine if he will forever sell phones, or he will become the person he has always known he could be. Watching Paul sing is like watching the birth of a long overdue and rather fragile new person.

Parker Palmer — the outstanding Quaker spiritual author — has written a gem of a book entitled: *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation*.² In it, he tells movingly of his struggle to claim his true self, his real life. He says that, "[As a young person]...I lined up the loftiest goals I could find and set out to achieve them. The results were rarely admirable, often laughable, and sometimes grotesque...as must be the case when one lives from the outside in, not the inside out." For the remainder of the book he offers the reader the story of his painful journey through clinical depression, a dark and unwelcome search that led him to his own authentic voice.

Palmer identifies seductive expectations of others as one of the obstacles to discovering our true selves. Family, teachers, neighbors, friends, critics, spiritual directors, church authorities — the list is endless. Some of those people may even seem to expect failure. My guess is that Paul Potts had plenty of those people in his life. Like May Sarton, he seems to be someone who

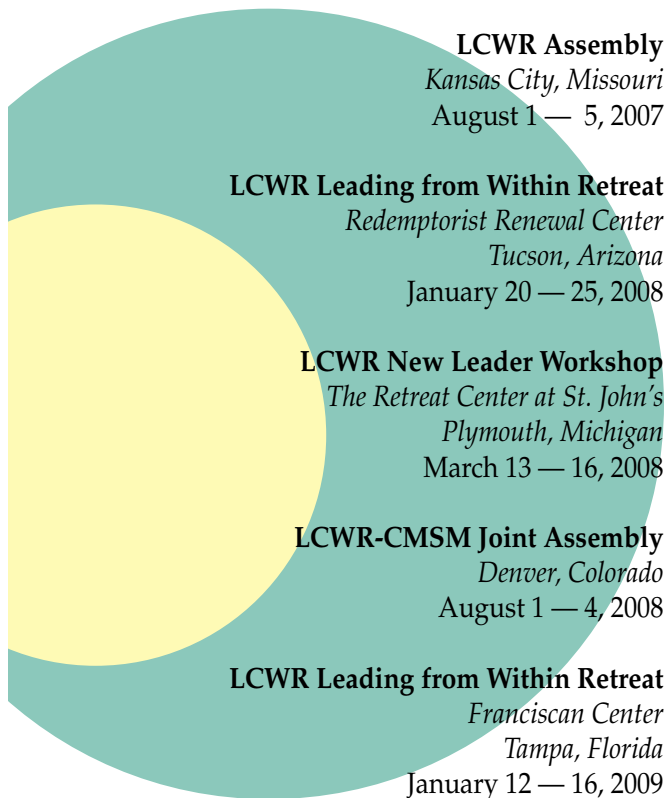
*What song
do we need to sing?*

has been "dissolved and shaken." Nevertheless before millions of people on a British TV talent show he sang with a new-found voice, "Now I become myself." What about you? What about us? What song do we need to sing?

¹ May Sarton, "Now I Become Myself"

² Parker J. Palmer, *Let Your Life Speak: Listening to the Voice of Vocation* (Jossey-Bass, Inc., San Francisco, 2000)

Upcoming LCWR Dates



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



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From the Center for the Study of Religious Life

Cultural Audit Workshop offers Frameworks to Practical Application

"Using the Cultural Audit" workshop is being held August 16-18, 2007 in Chicago at Catholic Theological Union. The Center for the Study of Religious Life developed the workshop to assist congregations in using the cultural audit tool. The workshop, presented by Frances Cunningham, OSF and Gary Riebe-Estrella, SVD, will provide a language to discuss features of culture and its impact on religious communities. It will also assist groups in exploring their internal cultures. The presenters will suggest uses for the components of the tool in various situations.

For further information, see http://www.religious-life.org/programs/cu_workshop.html. Registration forms are available at www.religious-life.org/pdfs/CTUWorkshopRegis21507.pdf.

RFC Appoints New Executive Director

The Religious Formation Conference is pleased to announce the appointment of Violet Grennan, mfc, as its next executive director, effective January 1, 2008. She comes with extensive educational and pastoral experience, most recently serving in Rome as international vice president for her community, the Missionary Franciscan Sisters. She will follow the leadership of Janet Mock, CSJ, who has served RFC for 10 years. Violet will be introduced at RFC's national congress in Pittsburgh in November.

Legal Resource Center for Religious Workshops

MEMBERSHIP ISSUES: CANONICAL, CIVIL & PSYCHOLOGICAL

September 11-13, 2007
Sheraton Greater Cincinnati Airport

Faculty:
Lynn Jarrell, OSU, JCD
Donna Markham, OP, Ph.D.
Daniel Ward, OSB, JD, JCL

CIVIL & CANON LAW 301: ADMINISTRATION PROCEDURES

September 13-14, 2007
Sheraton Greater Cincinnati Airport

Faculty:
Lynn Jarrell, OSU
Daniel Ward, OSB, JD, JCL

RECONFIGURATION: BEST PRACTICES CIVILLY, 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

See www.lrcr.org for more details