



January 2011

LCWR Offers its 2011 New Leader Workshop

March 24-27, 2011
Conference Center
University of St Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois

The annual LCWR New Leader Workshop is highly recommended not only for those who may be new to congregational leadership, but also for those who may be returning to leadership.

The program features an outstanding faculty and presentations that are tailored to the particular challenges of religious life leadership today.

Dimensions of Spiritual Leadership
Nancy Schreck, OSF

Leadership and Collaboration
Mary Dacey, SSJ

Leaders and Canon and Civil Law
Lynn Jarrell, OSU and Simone Campbell, SSS

Leaders and Personnel Issues and
Working Together in Teams
Lynn Levo, CSJ

LCWR as a Resource
LCWR Staff

Participants will have multiple opportunities to integrate the workshop learnings into their own congregation realities. Time will also be given for teams to discuss and plan. Prayer and ritual will be incorporated throughout the days.



Additional information on this important workshop, as well as registration materials can be found at www.lcwr.org/lcwrprogramsresources/NLWreg2011.pdf.

Registration is limited and must be received at the LCWR national office no later than **January 7, 2011**.



Watch for LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award Survey

The Leadership Conference of Women Religious established an Outstanding Leadership Award to recognize and honor persons who have significantly contributed to the ministry of leadership and who reflect the LCWR mission.

In the fall, regions were asked to submit nominations for persons to be considered for this award. The Outstanding Leadership Award Committee met in mid-December to review these nominations and to prepare a process to allow members to recommend recipients to the executive committee. In mid-January information will go to members of LCWR about those who have been nominated and about using Survey Monkey to make recommendations.

Members of the leadership award committee are Marcia Allen CSJ; Mary Dacey SSJ; Patricia McDermott, RSM; and Pat Cormack, SCSC (staff).

From the LCWR Presidency
This is Our Ordinary Time

by Mary Hughes, OP — LCWR President

Over the years I have adopted a practice that has become sacred to me. On my birthday I arise in the darkness, make coffee, and sit quietly as God and I watch the day come into being. In the quiet and beauty of the slowly rising sun, I become overwhelmed, once again, at all that God has done for me. I am at the threshold of a new year of life.

The dawn of a new year is akin to a birthday. We stand at a new threshold and reflect upon the blessings of the past as well as entertain dreams about what might engage our energy in the year to come. It is a treasured opportunity for personal reflection and resolution making.

Although we are about to move into what is called ordinary time, the rich imagery of Advent prayer still sings in our head and in our heart. "A time will come for singing...", "Let the clouds rain down justice...", "swords will be turned into plowshares...", and "a people who walk in darkness will see a great light..." 2010 has not been the year in which these prophecies have been fulfilled. Yet, the ministries of women religious throughout this country and around the world labor to bring these prophecies to fulfillment. We can only be in awe at the courage and the steadfastness with which this is being done, often very quietly, day by day. We know that God walks with us and stands at our sides. This is our ordinary time.

The blessings of the year have been many. The LCWR, and consequently, all of us have been singled out for multiple awards throughout the country. Catholic laity has been loud and vocal in their support. The *Women & Spirit* exhibit has been a stunning success wherever it opens. There are wafts of promise emanating from behind some Vatican doors. There is a shift in tone and a deepening understanding of the gift of consecrated life to the Church. This is a small taste of a time that has come for singing.



Still there are broken areas of our lives. Perhaps some significant relationships have been strained or broken during the past year. We are acutely aware of fragile or thwarted attempts at peace throughout our world. Trust has been violated. There are daily accounts of those Americans who have lost their lives at war. There is little recording of the innocent civilians who also died as a result of acts of war. So many more will return scarred physically and emotionally by their experiences. Child hunger and the crushing weight of poverty impacts an immense number of persons. This too has become a part of our ordinary time.

While many make New Years resolutions, we cling to gospel directives and the charisms of our founders and foundresses as we stand on this threshold. We do so

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We do so because Adonai has given us a sign.*

because Adonai has given us a sign. "Behold a young woman is with child, and she will give birth to a son, and she will name him Emmanuel." This little known and peaceful young mother brought immense promise and change to our world. The example of this mother and her child gives us the courage to continue the work of peace-making, both in our own lives and in the lives of others. It gives us the courage to be vocal about works of justice and human rights. It gives us the courage to feed the hungry, house the homeless, and companion the poor in their efforts to become self-reliant. This is our ordinary time.

Leadership Teams Encouraged to Reflect on Emerging Insights

All LCWR members are encouraged to reflect on the insights shared from the LCWR regions on the new that is emerging for religious life in the United States.

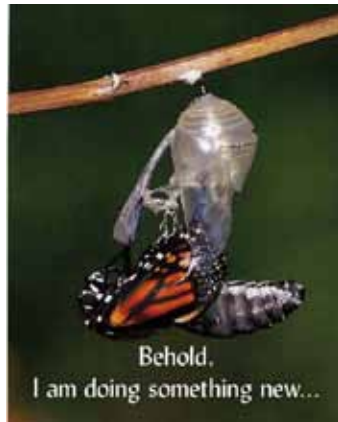
The insights submitted to the national office are posted on the LCWR website -- www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/new.htm. (The insights are also available there in PDF format.)

Members may wish to reflect both individually and in leadership teams using these questions:

1. **As you ponder the statements, what new questions or realities do you see emerging?**
2. **What is the new life that we as leaders need to attend to?**

On December 9, the LCWR national board met by conference call, along with members of the Contemporary Religious Life Committee, to reflect together on the regional insights. They listened for commonalities that may provide direction for future planning for LCWR's programs and resources.

A copy of the contemplative process used at the regional meetings is also on the website at www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/process.pdf. Members have been adapting the process for use with their own religious institutes.



Planning Underway for 2011 LCWR Assembly in Garden Grove, California



Planning for the logistics of the 2011 LCWR assembly took place at a meeting at the assembly site in Garden Grove, California from December 12-13.

Attending the meeting and shown in this photograph were: Jan Novotka, assembly liturgist; Kathy Stein, CSJ, Region 14 vice-chair; Gladys Guenther, SHF, Region 14 chair; and Pat Cormack, SCSC, LCWR associate director for business and finance.

LCWR is also in the process of arranging for pre-assembly bus trips to see the *Women & Spirit* exhibit at Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles.

More details will follow about the 2011 pre-assembly and assembly event.

Is Your Leadership Term About to End?

If your leadership term is ending this month, you must submit a change of leadership form so that the LCWR membership can be properly transferred to the new leaders. This will ensure that there will be no gap in communications from the national office. Please use the change of leadership form found in the LCWR Members Information section (password-protected) of the website at www.lcwr.org/members/index.html.

LCWR Participates in Delegation to Honor Martyrs in El Salvador

Carrying the thoughts and prayer of all LCWR members and the women religious they represent, several conference members and staff spent one week in El Salvador visiting the sites of martyrdom and learning about the realities of this country today.

These women were among the members of a 49-person delegation led by the SHARE Foundation, an organization dedicated to meeting immediate needs of impoverished people in El Salvador and constructing long-term sustainable solutions to the problems of poverty, underdevelopment, and social injustice.

The delegates participated in two Eucharistic liturgies honoring Maura Clark, MM; Jean Donovan; Ita Ford, MM; and Dorothy Kazel, OSU, in addition to visiting the sites of their murders, as well as the grave sites of Maura, Ita, and Carla Priette, another Maryknoll sister who lost her life in El Salvador.

Other sacred sites visited included the chapel of the Hospital Divina Providencia, where Archbishop Oscar Romero was murdered, as well as his home and tomb, and the Universidad de Centro América, the site of the murder of the six Jesuits and their housekeeper and her daughter. There, theologian Suyapa Pérez spoke to the group on liberation theology and Dean Brackley, SJ addressed the state of the country and the church.

Other activities of the delegation included meetings with leaders of various women's groups; the Pequeña

Comunidad, a Salvadoran community of women religious; and high school students who serve as sexual health promoters.

Recurring themes in presentations included: the increased violence against women despite legal and educational progress to prevent such abuse, advances made by women in assuming leadership in their own villages and communities, the severe shortage of opportunities for education and employment and the increasing violence that lead people to migrate to the United States and other countries, the rising number of deportations by the US government of Salvadorans and their plight upon return, advances made in local farming, adverse effects on the economy caused by the importation of goods to Salvador, and the struggles to gain land ownership. Delegates will continue to receive information on advocacy actions that can be taken on these issues by US citizens.

LCWR representatives included members: Patricia Crowley, OSB; Maria DeAngeli, OSB; Martha Patricia Escobar, OLC; Rose Elsbernd, FSPA; Martha Hernandez, OLC; Chris Koellhoffer, IHM; Linda Szocik, SSJ-TOSF; and staff: Annmarie Sanders, IHM.



LCWR member Linda Szocik, SSJ-TOSF prays at the tomb of Archbishop Oscar Romero

LCWR member Patricia Crowley, OSB at a memorial wall honoring more than 30,000 victims of the civil war in El Salvador

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LCWR member Maureen Grady, OSU carries a photo of Dorothy Kazel, OSU in a procession on December 2



LCWR member Rebecca Macugay, MM carries a photo of Maura Clarke, MM



Participating in a ritual to honor the four US churchwomen martyrs are LCWR staff Annmarie Sanders, IHM; LCWR member Chris Koellhoffer, IHM; and Donna Korba, IHM



LCWR member Martha Patricia Escobar, OLC visits with a woman in San Salvador



LCWR member Rose Elsbernd, FSPA at the Monument to Memory and Truth in San Salvador

USF Honors Carol Keehan, DC

Saying “it is not enough to blog for life, you need to work for life,” Carol Keehan, DC, in her remarks as she accepted the University of San Francisco Stand 4 Award for Justice. She noted that she and the Catholic Health Association in their nine months of work related to the recent healthcare reform “stood for life.”

In her remarks to the 20 university representatives, men and women religious from the region, and health care professionals gathered in Saint Ignatius Church to witness her award, she reviewed the Christian commitment to life issues, including universal health care, from Saint Augustine, the documents of the Second Vatican Council, and through the most recent Popes, including Benedict XVI. She also noted that in all her work over the nine months preceding passage of the healthcare bill with federal government officials, including President Obama, and US senators and representatives, that her first and non-negotiable principle was the protection of life from conception to death. Her work and her reading of the bill that was passed convinced her that life issues in keeping with Catholic teaching were protected.

In the awards ceremony, Stephn Privett, SJ, university president, gave special recognition to the women religious who have supported and faithfully ministered in healthcare in the United States.

Stephanie Still, PBVM, president of the San Francisco-based Sisters of the Presentation, represented LCWR at the awards ceremony.

CHA Reaches Out to Haiti

A report on the proposed hospital project in Haiti was provided during the December 2-3, 2010 meeting of the Catholic Health Association. In collaboration with Catholic Relief Services, CHA will help to raise \$9.5 million to rebuild St. Francois de Sales hospital in Port au Prince as a teaching hospital, with a network of seven smaller healthcare facilities throughout the country. St. Francois de Sales was destroyed during the earthquake and 70 workers are still entombed in the ruins. One goal is to train local Haitians to staff the facilities, a critical component of the program.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) has raised \$13 million of the \$21 million needed to rebuild and create a network, and is taking the lead in this effort. Several Catholic health systems have committed a total of \$4.5 million with others considering but not yet confirmed. CHA will kick-off its efforts on January 12, 2011, the anniversary of the earthquake, and will reach out to healthcare providers, sponsors, and health vendors.

Well aware of the unstable government in Haiti, the establishment of an oversight committee with CRS was also proposed. Following discussion, board members approved this collaboration with CRS, the establishment of an oversight committee, and a financial gift to be given by CHA over a period of three years.

LCWR Advocacy Efforts on DREAM and START

Before and during the lame duck session of Congress, LCWR staff and members of LCWR congregations have persisted in efforts to move the DREAM Act and the new START Treaty through the Senate. In collaboration with the USCCB Justice for Immigrants Campaign, advocates have called, written, and paid multiple visits to key senators on behalf of the DREAM Act for children who were brought to the US illegally by their parents. Working with a large coalition of faith groups, including the USCCB, LCWR has also advocated strenuously for ratification of the START Treaty. Both have been uphill battles. At the time of this writing, there is reason to believe that the START Treaty will be ratified, but the prospects for DREAM do not look as hopeful.

Even if the DREAM Act is not passed, Justice for Immigrants and the Interfaith Immigration Coalition will continue to promote immigration reform in the next Congress. The Interfaith Coalition launched a New Year’s Resolution campaign in November, and JFI will initiate a similar effort during National Migration Week, January 2-8, 2011. (Migration Refugee Services has posted resources for National Migration Week on its website: www.usccb.org/mrs/nmw. Note: a recommended film on detention and deportation of immigrants: www.abusedthepostvilleraid.com, an eight-minute trailer.)



Upcoming Showings

Statue of Liberty National Monument/ Ellis Island Immigration Museum

New York City -- September 24 - January 22, 2011

Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

Dubuque, Iowa -- February 18 - May 22, 2011

Mount St. Mary's College

Los Angeles, California - June 19 - August 14, 2011

Center for History

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

The California Museum of History, Women & the Arts

Sacramento, California

January 24 - June 3, 2012

Housing Options in Dubuque

While the *Women & Spirit* exhibit is on display at the Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium in Dubuque, Iowa, a number of local congregations are making housing available for women religious and associates. A listing of the options is available on the password-protected area of the LCWR website at: www.lcwr.org/members/dbqhousing.pdf. LCWR members are encouraged to make the listing available to those in their communities.

Women & Spirit in the News

"Women & Spirit"

Telecare TV

Special on the exhibit at Ellis Island

November 20 & 21, 2010

www.telecaretv.org

America

December 20, 2010

"Of Many Things"

Review of exhibit by George M. Anderson, SJ

www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=12626

A graphic featuring a blue inkwell with a green stopper and two fountain pens (one blue, one red) resting on its base. The text "LCWR SIGN ONs & Letters" is written in a blue, serif font to the right of the inkwell.

LCWR SIGN ONs & Letters

- Submission of comments to the SEC (Security Exchange Commission) from the Extractive Industries Working Group on the rulemaking process for transparency legislation
- An open letter to governments meeting in Cancun on climate change to set up a fair Global Climate Fund NOT under the World Bank or similar institutions
- 1000 Religious Leaders letter from Jubilee USA to President Obama urging his administration to lead global efforts toward a just global economy, signed by Mary Hughes, OP as LCWR president. Invitations to LCWR congregational leaders will be forthcoming.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

*San Pedro Spiritual Retreat Center
Winter Park, Florida
January 16 — 21, 2011*

LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank

*Franciscan Retreat Center
Scottsdale, Arizona
March 7 — 10, 2011*

LCWR New Leader Workshop

*Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 24 — 27, 2011*

LCWR Assembly

*Garden Grove, California
August 9 — 13, 2011*

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat

*Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 15 — 20, 2012*

LCWR Assembly

*St. Louis, Missouri
August 7 — 11, 2012*

LCWR Assembly

*Orlando, Florida
August 13 — 17, 2013*

LCWR New Leader Workshop

*Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 15-18, 2012*



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Planning for the Future: Alternatives to Reconfiguration

March 14-16, 2011
near Baltimore, Maryland

This prayerful and informative seminar presents options other than reconfiguration or merging with another institute that are available to religious Institutes. It addresses issues of viability, finances, real property and liquid assets, ministry and legacy, canonical and non-canonical issues, vehicles, and possibilities, and provides practical assistance on how to facilitate a community's decision.

More details of topics, presenters, cost and registration is available on the RCRI website at www.trcri.org/workshops.

Orientation to the Management of Religious Institutes

May 15-20, 2011
Chicago, Illinois

The Orientation to the Management of Religious Institutes (OMRI) is an annual seminar sponsored by the Resource Center for Religious Institutes (RCRI). Designed for new finance personnel and leadership, the program provides an overview of topics and a good foundation in areas of importance to leaders and treasurers. Seasoned presenters address government regulations and law, canon law, investment guidelines, accounting procedures, human resources, and healthcare, and many other issues of concern and interest to members and employees of religious institutes.

It also offers a pre-session to help new lay employees understand the culture, language, charism, and focus of religious life. More details will be available on the RCRI website in February 2011.