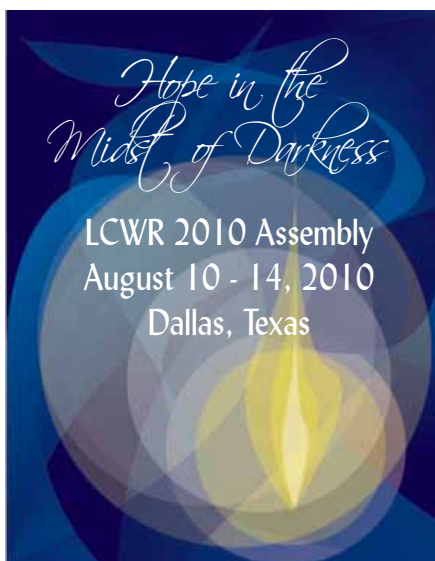


March 2010



2010 Assembly Focuses on the Ecclesial Role of Women Religious in these Critical Times

The 2010 LCWR national assembly promises to be an important gathering for women religious leaders at this decisive moment in the history of the church and religious life.

With the theme "Hope in the Midst of Darkness," the assembly will further develop the focus for LCWR affirmed by the 2009 assembly for this year: exploring the ecclesial role of women religious. Two outstanding speakers, M. Shawn Copeland, PhD, and Richard Gailardetz, PhD, will address the assembly on the current challenges facing religious as they seek to live in fidelity to the vision of Jesus and the ecclesial vision of the Second Vatican Council.

Dr. Copeland is an associate professor of systematic theology at Boston College. She is the author and editor

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LCWR Mourns the Death of Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN

Former LCWR executive director Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN

died on January 27, following an illness. She was known throughout the world as a tireless advocate for human dignity and as an influential thinker who worked to bring about change in the church and in religious life. In 2005 LCWR honored her with its Outstanding Leadership Award.



Born in Washington, DC, she held a bachelor of arts degree in philosophy from Trinity University, a master of arts in philosophy from Catholic University of America, and a master of arts degree in theology from St. Michael's Institute at the University of Notre Dame.

Following her entrance into the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur after high school, she taught in elementary and secondary schools as well as in college, and was an elementary school principal. Within her congregation, she served as director of junior professed members, was elected provincial of her congregation's Maryland province and was later elected superior general.

Mary Daniel's service and influence extended far beyond her own congregation. She was the national chair of the Sister Formation Conference and the executive director of the Conference of Major Superior of Women (CMSW), later to be called the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, from 1972-78. For many years, she

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From the LCWR Presidency
We Need to Step Apart

by Mary Hughes, OP — LCWR President-Elect

It is nearly Lent and the boards of both LCWR and CMSM are gathered in a retreat house in Tucson, Arizona to discuss issues of mutual importance. It is a desert immersion experience. One can't help but be reminded that the desert was the place Jesus chose to spend significant time in preparation for his years of active ministry.

The desert is both majestic and a place of extremes. The sun brings both light and great warmth by day. At sunset the nights become cold and there is utter darkness. In the darkness the stars are brilliant. The primary vegetation is cactus and brush. Many of the cacti here are huge. All are dangerous to touch. Mountains and brown rocky soil mark the terrain. Beyond the paths marked out for us, it would be easy to become lost. It is a place of silence.

Other than the beauty of this desert, there is little opportunity for distraction. A wall in the Renewal Center Church quotes Hosea, "the desert will lead you to your



We, sisters and followers of Jesus, know something about this journey. Days are all too often filled with extremes of emotion and unexpected events. We are privileged to listen to the sacred sharing of the joys and sorrows, the hopes and dreams of many. Yet that which we hold in our hearts can make us feel powerless. At times we feel both lost and parched. There are times when we know we have touched danger.

Jesus never apologized for taking time apart. His initial days in the desert were significant but followed by frequent references to going apart to pray. Jesus, fully human and fully divine, knew what he needed in his exercise of leadership. He needed to be in those places and spaces where his Father and the Spirit could speak. Can we do less?

This Lent perhaps the Gospel could govern our lives more than our calendars. As we struggle to make sense out of the challenges before us, we need to step apart and to do so unapologetically. When we experience powerlessness, confusion, dread, and dryness, we need a sanctuary to achieve clarity. This practice needs to be as much a part of our leadership as any meeting we chair or presentation we prepare. Our leadership needs to come from that place in our hearts where God speaks. We will not have 40 days and we may not have

*This Lent perhaps the Gospel
could govern our lives
more than our calendars.*

heart where I will speak." No wonder Jesus chose the desert. It became a powerful metaphor for his journey.

Jesus longed to make sense out of the changes that were to mark his shift from that of the carpenter's son to his public identity as God's son. He needed little in the desert. He had the light of the sun by day and the stars by night. There was no clear path. His desert days offered him time to explore the terrain, to get lost, to discover different kinds of beauty, to know dryness, and to long for community. The desert led him to his heart. There, God would speak. When Jesus emerged from the desert, he knew there would be no turning back. He knew what he must do.

*When we emerge, longing for community,
we will share with one another what God
has done in us. For a little while, at least,
we will know what we must do.*

a physical desert, but we, like Jesus, need to take refuge in those places where God speaks.

When we emerge, longing for community, we will share with one another what God has done in us. For a little while, at least, we will know what we must do. There will be no turning back.



M. Shawn Copeland



Richard Gaillardetz

2010 Assembly Focuses on the Ecclesial Role of Women Religious in these Critical Times

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of several books, and is a former convenor of the Black Catholic Theological Symposium and a former president of the Catholic Theological Society of America. Her presentation is entitled “Radical Openness, Suffering, and the Grace of Hope.”

Dr. Gaillardetz is a professor of Catholic studies at the University of Toledo. An expert in Catholic ecclesiology, he has served the church as a presenter and author. He was a Catholic delegate on the US Catholic-Methodist Ecumenical Dialogue and a past board member of the Catholic Theological Society of America. He will speak on “Contemporary Religious Life’s Creative Fidelity to the Vision of Vatican II.”

The 2010 assembly will also provide opportunities for “courageous conversations” throughout the gathering where participants can engage as a body in discussions about important matters facing women religious today.

Registration materials will be sent online to all LCWR members and associates. All are encouraged to attend this significant assembly and add their voice to the conversations.

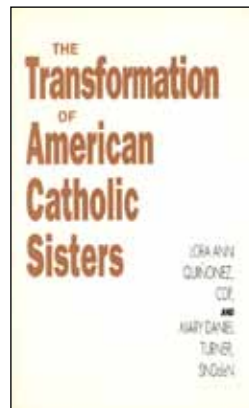
LCWR Mourns the Death of Mary Daniel Turner, SNDdeN

(continued from page 1)

served as a facilitator, retreat director, and organizational consultant to numerous religious congregations and Catholic organizations. This work involved her as well in the founding of several national organizations including: the Religious Formation Conference, the Association of Contemplative Sisters, the Center for the Study of Religious Life, Sisters Uniting, NETWORK, and the United States Catholic Mission Conference (now USCMA). She also coordinated and facilitated several InterAmerican conferences and gatherings.

Her written contributions include: *The Transformation of American Catholic Sisters*, a book she co-authored with Lora Ann Quiñonez, CDP; a chapter on power and authority in the book *Called and Chosen: Toward A Spirituality For Lay Leaders*; and numerous articles.

Mary Daniel’s strong commitment to being fully a part of a multi-cultural world where she was exposed to the injustice suffered by so many led her to the work of executive director of Joseph’s House, a permanent residence for homeless men with AIDS in Washington, DC. She also lived for several decades in a bi-racial and multigenerational household.



LCWR National Board Meets for Discussion of Key Issues

Members of the LCWR national board met from February 14-18 at the Redemptorist Renewal Center in Tucson, Arizona, where they addressed conference business as well as some of the important issues before religious life leaders today. The gathering was held in conjunction with the board members of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) and included some joint sessions, as well as daily prayer, Eucharistic liturgy, and meals together.

Contemporary Religious Life Project

The board heard a report from the LCWR Strategic Operational Plan Committee which has been focusing its efforts initially on a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of the conference. As the committee works with the data it has on the conference and possibilities for keeping LCWR an effective resource for leaders, it will present ideas at the 2010 LCWR assembly for discussion by the regions in the fall.

The Contemporary Religious Life Committee is working on a long-range plan for ongoing education and formation for its members on the emerging questions facing religious life utilizing the assembly, regional meetings, publications, and other resources. Cathy Bertrand, SSND will be working with the committee on March 8 to begin to formulate this plan.

Doctrinal Assessment and Apostolic Visitation

The LCWR presidency updated the board on the status of the doctrinal assessment of LCWR by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, including a recent request from Bishop Leonard Blair for additional materials.

The board members also discussed their own experiences and the experiences of their regional members with the apostolic visitation, and decided to propose to the

LCWR past president J Lora Dambroski, OSF; CMSM president Thomas Cassidy, SCJ; Bishop Gerald Kicanas; and LCWR president Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA

members the possibility of creating a calendar listing those congregations being visited so that members could remember in prayer the congregations and the visitors. Congregations selected for a visitation will be asked whether they wish to be listed.

Future Workshop for Outgoing Leaders

The LCWR and CMSM boards discussed the possibility of jointly developing and offering a workshop for outgoing leaders, since this is a need expressed by members of both conferences. The national offices of LCWR and CMSM will begin investigating this possibility.

Role of the LCWR Presidency

At previous LCWR assemblies there had been some discussion of the possibility of decreasing the responsibilities of the LCWR past president. The board reviewed possible scenarios for a reconfigured presidency and concluded that maintaining the role of the presidency as it has been would best serve the conference for this time.

Conversation with Bishop Kicanas

Bishop Gerald Kicanas of the diocese of Tucson joined the LCWR and CMSM boards for a period of conversation around topics of interest and concern to all. Bishop Kicanas, vice-president of the USCCB, thanked the board members and recognized the important role religious leaders play in today's church.

Among the topics of conversation were: concern for the dearth of vocations in the church, concern for future leadership in the church, relationship-building between bishops and women religious, avenues for interaction for women and men religious with the USCCB, the apostolic visitation of US women religious, and the role of faithful dissent within the church.

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Transformative Elements

The LCWR and CMSM boards spent time reviewing a document produced by the two conferences in 1989 at a joint assembly called, "Transformative Elements." These 10 elements were named after the 1989 assembly spent several days envisioning the future of the world, society, and the church and imagining what religious life might look like in the year 2010. The elements were:

- Prophetic Witness
- Contemplative Attitudes Toward Life
- Poor and Marginalized Persons as the Focus of Ministry
- Spirituality of Wholeness and Global Interconnectedness
- Charism and Mission as Sources of Identity
- Change of the Locus of Power
- Living with Less
- Broadbased, Inclusive Community
- Understanding Ourselves as Church
- Developing Interdependence Among People of Diverse Cultures

The LCWR board decided to draw the attention of their members to this document at the spring regional meetings.

LCWR Financial Needs

The financial reports of the conference show the need for ways to find additional revenue. The board discussed membership dues, and information on the dues structure will be shared at the spring regional meetings. The board approved a proposal for inviting non-LCWR members to serve on an LCWR development committee. Information was also shared on LCWR's efforts to procure grants to fund the work on the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Project.

Committee Appointment

The LCWR board approved the appointment of Nora Hahn, PHJC to the LCWR Nominations and Elections Committee.

Outgoing Board Members

The board thanked and blessed its four members who have completed their terms: Kathryn Clauss, IHM (Region 3); Connie Probst, OSF (10); Bernadine Reyes, OSB (12); and Nancy Reynolds, SP (5).



Members of the LCWR and CMSM boards held three joint sessions during their meetings in Tucson

LCWR and US Women Religious in the News

The following are links to some of the articles about US women religious and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious that have been in the news since the publication of the February 2010 LCWR newsletter.

"Sr. Margaret Brennan's memoir: story of a religious everywoman"

National Catholic Reporter

Article by Thomas C. Fox

February 19, 2010

<http://ncronline.org/node/17067>

"Mother Mary Clare Millea speaks about the visitation"

National Catholic Reporter

Interview by John L. Allen Jr.

Part 1

February 18, 2010

<http://ncronline.org/node/17123>

Part 2

<http://ncronline.org/node/17170>

"Museum exhibit shows history of contributions of Catholic Nuns"

Catholic News Service

Video interview with Mary Waskowiak, RSM and Annmarie Sanders, IHM

February 8, 2010

<http://www.catholicnews.com/crossplayer/index.html>

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LCWR and US Women Religious in the News

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“Two heartfelt support letters regarding U.S. women religious”

National Catholic Reporter

Article by Thomas C. Fox

February 5, 2010

<http://ncronline.org/blogs/ncr-today/two-heartfelt-support-letters-regarding-us-women-religious>

“Support for Apostolic Visitation gathers online”

The Catholic Transcript

Article by Roberta Tuttle

February 1, 2010

<http://www.catholictranscript.org/component/content/article/1-latest/1261-support-for-apostolic-visitation-gathers-online.html>

“As future looks uncertain, exhibit celebrates nuns’ colorful past”

Religion News Service

Article by Daniel Burke

January 28, 2010

http://www.religionnews.com/index.php?/mnspremi-umtext/singlenet/exhibit_traces_nuns_history_as_vatican_probe_continues1/

“Catholic sisters helped shape America”

The Catholic Herald

Article by Nora Hamerman

January 27, 2010

http://www.catholicherald.com/arts/detail.html?sub_id=12234

“Apostolic Visitation Questionnaire: Returned to Sender?”

America Magazine

By Kevin Clarke

January 26, 2010

http://www.americamagazine.org/blog/entry.cfm?blog_id=2&id=73078823-3048-741E-5956717570566990

NETWORK Thanks Former LCWR President Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ for 26 Years of Service

At the end of March, Catherine Pinkerton, CSJ will leave the staff of NETWORK, following 26 years of ministry as a lobbyist. Catherine joined the NETWORK staff after her term in elected leadership, during which time she served in the LCWR presidency (1982-85).

On February 23, NETWORK honored Catherine at a reception attended by representatives of many of the organizations and government offices with which Catherine collaborated. Among those offering remarks were representatives of her community, the Congregation of St. Joseph; LCWR; the boards of NETWORK and the NETWORK Education Program; the White House; former NETWORK interns and associates; and *Washington Post* columnist E.J. Dionne.

U.S. Representative Marcy Kaptur also attended and presented Catherine with a flag that had flown that day over the Capitol in her honor.

Catherine was the recipient of the 2006 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award.

Among those at the NETWORK reception were: John Kelly (White House staff); Cody Fischer (former NETWORK associate, now with The Alliance to End Hunger); Kate Byrne (former NETWORK associate, now working for US Rep. Marcy Kaptur); Catherine Pinkerton; US Rep. Marcy Kaptur; and White House staff members: Alexia Kelley, Mara Vanderslice, and Mark Linton





Upcoming Showings

**Smithsonian-International Gallery
in the Dillon Ripley Center**
Washington, DC
January 15 - April 25, 2010

Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage
Beachwood, Ohio (outside of Cleveland)
May 9 - August 28, 2010

**Statue of Liberty National Monument/Ellis Island
Immigration Museum**
New York
September 24 - January 22, 2011

Mississippi River Museum
Dubuque, Iowa
February - April 2011

Center for History
South Bend, Indiana
September 2 - December 31, 2011

Permanent Housing for Exhibit

Written proposals are still being accepted for permanent housing for the *Women & Spirit* exhibit after it completes its travels. Motherhouses, universities, or other settings may be possibilities.

The requirements for the venue would be: 3500 square feet, 10-foot height, assumption of the cost of transporting the content of the exhibit to the site, and maintenance of the exhibit. (Original artifacts would be returned to their owners and facsimiles would be created.)

Written proposals should be sent to Helen Garvey, BVM at hmgarvey@aol.com.

LCWR to Produce *Women & Spirit* Documentary

Due to the tremendous interest in and positive response to the *Women & Spirit* exhibit, LCWR is initiating a new project. During the year 2010, work will take place to produce a full-length documentary on the contributions of Catholic sisters to the history and culture of the United States. The hope is to interest PBS and other national venues in broadcasting the film so that it will get as wide coverage as possible.

In addition, LCWR will produce a DVD that will contain the documentary, as well as bonus features that could include an online exhibit catalog, as well as the videos that are part of the exhibit.

LCWR has raised an additional \$155,000 to cover the costs of the documentary production and the creation of the DVDs.

More information on the documentary will be shared as this project progresses.

Four members of the LCWR History Committee will be working on the project: Helen Maher Garvey, BVM; Mary Dacey, SSJ; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; and Carole Shinnick, SSND, along with staff from Seruto & Co.



Update is an official publication of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious published monthly and distributed to members nationally.

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Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Systemic Change Think Tank
Bethany Center
Lutz, Florida
March 1 — 4, 2010

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 11 — 14, 2010

LCWR Assembly
Dallas, Texas
August 10 — 14, 2010

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
San Pedro Spiritual Retreat Center
Winter Park, FL
January 16 — 23, 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 Assembly
St. Louis, Missouri
August 7 — 11, 2012



Upcoming Programming of the Religious Formation Conference

Spring 2010

Hub Workshops in the Pacific Northwest:

1) **Rooted in God – Sent on Mission** for vocation and formation ministers, those in leadership, as well as all members wishing to deepen their own commitment.

Date: April 6 - 8, 2010

Location: Sisters of Providence
Renton, Washington

2) **Rooted in God – Sent on Mission** for those in pre-novitiate, novitiate, and temporary professed.

Date: April 9 - 11, 2010

Location: Sisters of Providence
Auburn, Washington

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Members of the LCWR Strategic Operational Plan Committee met on January 27 at the LCWR offices in Silver Spring, Maryland. Standing: Kathleen Durkin, CSJ; Theresa Sandok, OSM; Marie Lucey, OSF (staff); Bea Hernandez, OSF; Pat McDermott, RSM; Pat Cormack, SCSC (staff). Seated: Jane Burke, SSND (executive director) and Janet Roesener, CSJ, who facilitated the meeting. Missing is Barbara Staropoli, SSJ.





Upcoming Programming of the Religious Formation Conference

(continued from page 8)

Summer 2010

1) **ForMission** – A program for formation ministers currently accompanying new members of their religious congregations at any stage of initial formation. The primary aim of the program is to foster personal transformation of the participants and to equip them to articulate and develop the vision and skills necessary for formation for religious life as a prophetic enterprise in the 21st century. The program is composed of four intensive residential sessions over a two-year period and is hosted at or near various major theological schools with selected faculty who are first-rate in their respective disciplines and lecture nationally and internationally. This summer's session is on "Reflections on the Reign of God." New participants can join the cycle at any session.

Date: June 10-18, 2010

**Location: Catholic Theological Union,
Chicago, Illinois**

2) **Life Commitment** - A nine-day program for men and women in temporary profession who are proceeding to final commitment.

Date: June 22 – June 30, 2010

**Location: Franciscan Spiritual Center
Aston, Pennsylvania**

3) **We Are The Change** - A one-week summer session on the vows open to all congregational members. This summer's theme is 'Economy of Living: Reflections on the Vow of Poverty'

Date: July 5-10, 2010

**Location: Catholic Theological Union
Chicago, Illinois**

Fall 2010 Preview

Orientation to Formation - a two-day conference for ministers of formation, members of formative communities, and congregational leadership who serve as liaisons in initial and lifelong formation of congregational members. The program especially welcomes new directors of pre-novitiate, novitiate, and temporary professed members and those who experience themselves as new in these roles. Seasoned directors also find the program a useful refresher as they continue in their ministry.

Date: October 8 - 10, 2010

**Location: Xavier Center
Convent Station, New Jersey**

For more information on the above programs and registration please visit the RFC's website at www.relforcon.org. or contact the RFC program director Yvonne DeBruin at 301-588-4938 or ydebruin@relforcon.org.