



March 2011



Mystery Unfolding: Religious Life for the World

LCWR Assembly

August 9 - 12 (evening)

(Travel home recommended for August 13)

Garden Grove, California

Keynote Presentations

**Embodying
Holy Mystery**



Barbara Reid, OP
Vice President,
Academic Dean and
Professor
Catholic Theological Union

**...If you believe, you will
see the glory of God**



Maricarmen Bracamontes, OSB
Theology Team Coordinator
for the Confederation of Latin
American Religious

President Obama Appoints LCWR Past President to Key Administration Post

President Barack Obama recently announced his intent to appoint LCWR past president Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA to the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.



The council brings together religious and secular leaders as well as scholars and experts in fields related to the work of faith-based and neighborhood organizations in order to make recommendations to the government on how to improve partnerships.



When making the announcement of the appointment of Marlene and 11 others, President Obama said, "I am pleased to announce that these experienced and committed individuals have agreed to join this Administration, and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead."

Other 2011 LCWR Assembly Highlights:

- Pre-Assembly Trips to the *Women & Spirit* Exhibit at Mount Saint Mary College, Los Angeles
- Address from LCWR President Mary Hughes, OP
- Opportunities for Contemplative Processing of the Assembly Experiences
- Panel Presentation on Immigration Issues
- Presentation of the 2011 LCWR Outstanding Leadership Award

An assembly registration brochure will be sent electronically to all LCWR members and associates in March.

From the LCWR Presidency **Leading from Vulnerability**

by Pat Farrell, OSF — LCWR President-Elect

I recently saw the movie *The King's Speech*. A poignant drama, it tells the story of a stammering king whose speech impediment is painfully visible in his public role. With the support and friendship of a speech therapist, he finds his voice and leads effectively at a critical time. I was struck by the interplay of strength and vulnerability in the king, and sensed my own experience of leadership reflected in that. It has been on my mind as Lent approaches.



is merely our willingness to serve as community leaders. Acceptance of that simple truth might be what helps us to notice where and how direction flows from unexpected places, emerging more from God's faithfulness than from any striving on our part.

Leading from vulnerability recognizes that incompleteness, disruption, and pain are at the core of our experience, and yet the birthplace of transformation. To embrace life as it is, not as we think it should be or would like it to be, is an es-

Lent's annual invitation to transformation is always fresh. This year, the path of conversion suggested to me by *The King's Speech* is one of leading

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from vulnerability. Rather than a denial of our power, the capacity to stand in our own vulnerability and to lead from there is a genuine strength.

"Leading from within" our congregations invites the vulnerability of authentic response. As congregational leaders, we do not stand apart from the experience of the rest of the community. We ask the same questions, are shaped by the same congregational context, and face similar opportunities and diminishments. To respond to these situations with genuine honesty can be clarifying and freeing, an important though vulnerable leadership function.

As leaders we live with the fragility of needing to mark a direction before the path is clear, to make decisions before all the information is in, to lead by faith. There are times when inspiration doesn't come, when answers are not evident, when we don't know what to do. We discover that the change we would like to inspire has its own timing and that readiness needs to ripen. Sometimes the most important thing we bring to the moment

essential nonviolence, a liberating truthfulness. It requires presence, awareness, and compassion to receive what is without judgment or resistance. It carves out in us the capacity to notice what is emerging when it is not what we are programmed to expect.

Our US culture works against embracing vulnerability. It denies limits, lives beyond its means, accrues credit-card debt, and measures personal worth by cluttered calendars, a rapid pace, and constant multi-tasking. It is the air we breathe and the context in which we lead. To leave space for a balanced life is counter-cultural, prophetic, and definitely challenging. Our calendars are moral documents.

In *The King's Speech* King George VI says: "If I am a king, where is my power? Can I declare war? Form a

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government? Levy a tax? No! And yet I am the seat of all authority because they think that when I speak, I speak for them." The movie fueled my desire to lead with the vulnerability and transparency that can make another sense that I speak for her. Lent invites me to a deeper knowing that "when I am weak, then I am strong." (2 Cor. 12:10)

LCWR and CMSM Boards Meet in Florida

The LCWR and CMSM national boards held meetings both separately and jointly during the week of February 20 at Bethany Center, outside of Tampa, Florida.

In addition to updates and reports on finances, committees, and office operations, the LCWR board engaged in other discussions of significant matters, some of which are highlighted here.

Strategic Operational Planning Committee

The board reviewed an analysis prepared by the Center for Applied Research for the Apostolate (CARA) of the online survey conducted by the Strategic Operational Planning Committee to obtain more information for their work. The board members also engaged five questions in order to provide more input to the committee for planning purposes:

- What demographic issues face the LCWR, both nationally and regionally?
- What financial implications are there for LCWR?
- What strategic issues face LCWR?
- What are the major issues regarding office staffing?
- What issues are there regarding board functioning?

Criteria for Signing Statements/Assembly Resolution Voting Policy

Noting the trust that religious throughout the country have in the screening process of justice issues by LCWR, the board reviewed the policy LCWR follows for participating in advocacy efforts.

The board also approved an amendment to the policy for voting on assembly resolutions, in an effort to make that process proceed as efficiently as possible at the assemblies.



LCWR board members: Barbara Staropoli, SSJ; Yvette Bel-lerose, SSA; Pat Farrell, OSF; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; and Vivien Linkhauer, SC

Contemplative Process

After engaging in the “Behold, I am doing something new” contemplative process at the close of the meeting, the board wrote the following statement on what appears to be emerging for religious life:

*With hearts open to embrace the erupting cries for freedom,
dignity and wholeness, together we courageously claim:
a compelling fidelity
to an authentic Gospel witness
for the sake of God’s desire for the world.*



Beth Fitzpatrick,
OCarm and
Ellen Dauwer, SC



Meeting of the LCWR and CMSM Boards

Among the items discussed when the LCWR and CMSM boards met jointly, were:

- The need and desire for open, honest conversation among religious today about critical issues arising as change rapidly occurs within congregations.
- The number of congregations of women religious who are experiencing grave financial concerns and the efforts that the National Religious Retirement Office and LCWR have been making to identify and reach out to these institutes.
- The challenge of bringing issues of significance about religious life to the table at the annual meeting of the USCCB Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.
- The CARA study on vocations and its implications for men and women religious today.
- Review of the letter to members of the US Congress written by USCCB president Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan that outline the principles and priorities that guide the public policy efforts of the USCCB.

Update on Haiti

LCWR and CMSM have been working with Catholic Relief Services to see if the conferences can assist with any of the recovery efforts taking place in Haiti, following the 2010 earthquake.

Key areas of concern include communications, capacity building/strategic planning, and financial assistance. Among the possible ways in which the two conferences may assist are:

- Organization of a forum for religious working in schools in Haiti
- Support the trauma and mental health work taking place
- Offering financial management training

*Board members
Cathy Mueller, SL;
Yvette Bellerose, SSA;
and
Theresa Sandok, OSM*



New Committee Formed to Revise LCWR Leadership Manual

Members of the LCWR Manual Committee are: (left to right) Sara Dwyer, ASC; Chris Koellhoffer, IHM; Ellen Dauwer, SC; Janet Mock, CSJ; Mary Jo Nelson, OLVN; Jane Burke, SSND; Sheila Lemieux, CSJP; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; and Regina Bechtle, SC



LCWR is launching a new effort to offer an array of leadership development resources to its members. In partnership with Washington Theological Union (WTU), LCWR is exploring how to provide most effectively materials and programs that will meet the needs of women religious in elected leadership today and into the future.

As a first step in this process, LCWR created a new committee to review the materials in the *Leading from Within*

Manual to see how they might be updated and made more effective for contemporary leaders. This committee of current and former leaders and LCWR staff was hosted at WTU in February by Janet Mock, CSJ who is coordinating the effort on behalf of WTU.

In March, a committee to look at the design of a more comprehensive leadership development program will meet to begin preliminary planning.

Younger LCWR Members Seek Input on Interest in Listserv and Assembly

At the 2010 LCWR assembly, a group of leaders “under 60ish” held a luncheon. The discussion at the gathering focused on leadership styles, the pull for younger religious to remain in full-time, compensated ministry rather than accept leadership, and the desire for peer support.

The group plans to gather again at the 2011 assembly and will make information on the gathering known to

anyone who would like to attend. The group is also interested in maintaining contact in between assemblies and is considering initiating a listserv for younger LCWR members. In order to ascertain interest for this, an online survey has been established at www.surveymonkey.com/s/youngerleaders. Any LCWR member “under 60ish” is asked to complete the survey before **March 15**.

WOMEN & spirit

CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

Dubuque, Iowa



Opening of *Women & Spirit* at the
National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium
February 17



LCWR president-elect Pat Farrell,
OSF offers the opening blessing



Local area chair Mira Mosle, BVM
welcomes the crowd at the reception





Total Exhibit Visitors Nears One Million Mark

The Statue of Liberty National Monument / Ellis Island Immigration Museum reports that more than 600,000 people visited the *Women & Spirit* exhibit while it was featured there from September 2010 to January 2011.

This figure brings the total number of visitors to the exhibit thus far to nearly one million.

Women & Spirit in the News

"A Sister's History: The Legacy of Women Religious in America"

Review by Camille D'Arienzo, RSM

January 28, 2011

America Magazine

www.americamagazine.org/content/culture.cfm?cultureID=171

"American Catholic Historical Society Confers Award on LCWR"

Vidimus Dominum

February 5, 2011

www.vidimusdominum.org/.../index.php?...

"Exhibit tells story of Catholic sisters and their impact on America"

Quad City Times

February 22, 2011

qctimes.com/lifestyles/announcements/article_17d68416-3dee-11e0-ae84-001cc4c002e0.html

Video of Presentation on Women & Spirit

A video of a presentation by Helen Maher Garvey, BVM on the day the exhibit opened to the public at the National Mississippi River Museum in Dubuque, Iowa is available at:

www.blip.tv/file/4812956/

Upcoming Showings

National 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.

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.

Extractive Industries Working Group Expresses Support for Chilean Bishop

During their February 10 meeting, members of the Extractive Industries Working Group agreed to issue a public statement in support of Bishop Luis Infante of Aysen, Chile in his battle against hydroelectric dams being built in his community and denounce the threats and harassment he is enduring for his efforts. The project calls for construction of seven dams which will destroy the surrounding natural habitat, and pose risks to the indigenous people who live in an earthquake-prone area.

Group members also received an update on El Salvador mining lawsuits from a member of CISPES, a Solidarity with El Salvador organization. Lawsuits have been brought against the Salvadoran government for refusing to give permits to two mining companies, Pacific Rim (a \$77 million suit under the rubric of CAFTA) and Commerce, based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (a \$100 million lawsuit). CISPES addresses the lawsuits from both a human rights position and the rules themselves. CISPES will develop a sign-on letter to President Obama, who plans to visit El Salvador in March, urging support for the government and opposition to the lawsuits.

JFI Anticipates Lenten Campaign

Core members of Justice for Immigrants supported a Lenten campaign for action during their February 9 meeting, and urged staff to post materials as soon as possible. Information about the USCCB position on two important challenges was shared. The bishops oppose mandatory expansion of the e-verify program for several reasons: there are many errors in the system, there is potential for employer misuse, and if legislation passes, it will have negative impact on comprehensive immigration reform. The bishops also oppose repeal of birthright citizenship contained in the 14th amendment and link it to their right-to-life position. Proposals at both national and state levels to repeal are seen as attempts to move the issue to the Supreme Court. (For further information see the JFI website: www.justiceforimmigrants.org)

Faith Groups Host Reception for Assistant Secretary of State Gottemoeller

Assistant Secretary of State Rose Gottemoeller exercised strong leadership in negotiating and securing adoption of the New START Treaty. For this achievement, and her valuable assistance to faith groups in their advocacy work for ratification, a number of these groups, including LCWR and CMSM, hosted a reception to honor her on March 1, 2011 in DC. (Rose Gottemoeller is related to former LCWR president Doris Gottemoeller, RSM.)

John Allen Addresses CHA Board on Catholic Healthcare and the Church

During the February 2-4 Catholic Health Association board meeting and retreat, CNN and *National Catholic Reporter* correspondent John Allen spoke to the board about his perceptions of US Catholic healthcare and relationship with both US bishops and the Vatican in a talk titled, "Ecclesial Relations in a Time of Identity Crisis." His key message was that CHA is not only engaged in a struggle about Catholic healthcare in the United States, but is the leader in modeling how to disagree without disintegration. Allen described his perceived climate in Rome and in the United States, and identified key players in dicasteries in Rome and in the USCCB, with whom it would be well for CHA to develop or continue to have good relationships.

Other meeting items included an update on healthcare reform, the CHA Haiti Initiative, a succession planning process, and an assembly attendance revitalization strategy. The update on the Affordable Care Act provided information about attempts in the new Congress to attack healthcare reform by way of proposed lawsuits and budget cutting items. Although CHA president and CEO Carol Keehan, DC has no imminent intention of leaving CHA, she believes it is wise to have a succession-planning process in place. The Haiti Initiative funding is close to goal and progress is being made to move the initiative.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

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*

Apostolic Nuncio Issues Alert Regarding Fraudulent Requests for Funds

Apostolic nuncio Archbishop Pietro Sambi issued an alert regarding fraudulent requests for funds falsely invoking names of the Roman curia. The requests ask for funding of nonexistent projects or for the transfer of money. They have been sent both by e-mail and through mailed letters using signatures of cardinals, heads of Roman congregations, and other authorities within the Catholic Church.

Archbishop Sambi urges that such requests be verified for the authenticity of both the project and the petitioner.

Religious Formation Conference

2011 Life Commitment Program

A program for temporary professed women and men preparing for their final commitment. The daily schedule includes prayer, Eucharistic liturgy, presentation, reflection, discussion, and leisure. Presenters are drawn mainly from theological institutions, are well qualified, skilled in adult learning processes, praxis-oriented in terms of religious life, and offer inspiring perspectives on familiar topics.

July 21 - 29, 2011

Marillac Center

Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

Leavenworth, Kansas

913-758-6552

www.MarrillacCenter.org

More information and registration materials are available by contacting

RFC program director Yvonne DeBruin at ydebruin@relforcon.org or by phone at 301-588-4938 or going to www.relforcon.org.



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Executive Director Position Openings

United States Catholic Mission Association

The United States Catholic Mission Association seeks an executive director with strong mission experience who will work with the board to promote the vision and mission of the organization. The position offers numerous opportunities for national leadership in the area of mission and global solidarity.

Requirements: Master's degree or higher. Preferred areas of studies are theology, missiology or, crosscultural studies. The ideal candidate will have strong leadership and collaborative ability, good administrative experience, strong verbal and written skills, and a familiarity with the Catholic Church's teachings, structures, and organizations. The availability to travel is essential.

As the chief executive officer of the USCMA, the executive director directs, coordinates, and oversees the ongoing administration of the association. He/she leads the implementation of programs in collaboration with members, staff, board, and mission partners to accomplish the mission of the association. The executive director represents the association at official functions of the church, government, and other organizations; serves on boards and as liaison with other organizations dedicated to similar purposes. He/she facilitates opportunities for the financial development of the organization.

For consideration, please submit a letter of application, curriculum vitae or resume, and contact information for references to Search Committee, US Catholic Mission Association, 3025 Fourth St. NE, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20017-1102 or via e-mail to searchcommittee@uscatholicmission.org.

Africa Faith & Justice Network

The Africa Faith & Justice Network was established in 1973 by Catholic missionary congregations to bring the most important issues affecting communities in Africa before lawmakers in Washington, DC. Grounded by a commitment to social justice, AFJN advocates for policies that uphold human dignity and advance the common good.

The executive director of the Africa Faith & Justice Network:

- Works in collaboration with the Board to develop strategy and establish operational goals;
- Leads the implementation of programs in collaboration with members, staff, board, and coalition partners to accomplish its mission;
- Works to expand membership in AFJN;
- Engages in fundraising activities and manages the organization's finances;
- Assumes responsibility for the administration of the AFJN office; and
- Serves as an official spokesperson for AFJN.

Qualifications:

- Strong commitment to the organization's mission;
- Experience living or working in Africa;
- Ability to work collaboratively with a team;
- Administrative experience;
- Advocacy experience ;
- Strong organizational skills, ability to prioritize, and to handle multiple projects.

To apply, send an e-mail that includes a cover letter and resume to Jo'Ann DeQuattro at joanndequattro@gmail.com with subject line "Executive Director." Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Additional information is located on the website: www.afjn.org.