

LCWR Initiates New Leadership Development Program

In response to a need expressed by LCWR members, the conference is initiating a new leadership development endeavor. In order to promote the role of religious life and support its members, the conference hopes to create opportunities for leadership training that educates, mentors, inspires, and supports leaders in developing the skills required for effective leadership in these challenging and unprecedented times.

The planning for this endeavor began with the February meeting of a committee which has been charged with reviewing the LCWR Leading from Within Manual. The committee hopes to update and find new mechanisms for sharing and utilizing the material in the manual. (See the March 2011 LCWR *Update* for more information.)

In March, the conference called together a Leadership Development Design Committee Meeting at Washington Theological Union (WTU), and drawing upon the expertise of the WTU staff and faculty, the committee took an initial look at some of the challenges facing religious life leaders today and explored possibilities for providing resources and training to assist leaders as religious life moves into the future. LCWR invited three consultants to attend this gathering: Michael Brough from the National Leadership Roundtable for Church Management, Rey Freil from Rey Freil & Associates,



Meeting participants: (standing) Nancy Schreck, OSF; Eileen Campbell, RSM; Nancy Conway, CSJ; Mary Pellegrino, CSJ; Marlene Weisenbeck, FSPA; Annmarie Sanders, IHM (LCWR staff); Michael Brough (consultant); (seated) Barbara Hagedorn, SC; Rey Friel (consultant); Mary Haddad, RSM (consultant); Janet Mock, CSJ (WTU staff); Jane Burke, SSND (LCWR executive director); and Laura Glasgow (WTU staff). Also present were Fred Tilloston, O Carm (WTU president) and Larry LeNoir (WTU faculty).

All LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Regional Insights

All LCWR regions will engage during their spring meetings in the contemplative process that seeks to name what is emerging for US women religious as this life form goes into the



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From the LCWR Presidency

Readying Ourselves for Resurrection

by Mary Hughes, OP — LCWR President

My congregation is located in the Northeast region of the United States. This winter has been a real winter! There was an abundance of snow, particularly during the month of January. Recently, there has been an abundance of rain. There have been many days and nights that have held an abundance of wind. As I write this reflection, I am aware that everything in me aches to see something growing from the earth and being called into bloom. I long for even longer days filled with daylight and for the warmth of the sun. I always long for Lent to be over so I can leap into the joy of the resurrection, bypassing the number of days that might invite me to fasting, to additional prayer, and to almsgiving.



the flowering of spring, there might well be relationships within the congregation that need time and care. Who is it that might need a bit of additional support and encouragement from me? Who are the persons we have wanted to write notes to, but have never found the time? What is the environment we have helped to create so that sisters can speak about their lives of prayer and their relationships with God? There is a special grace attached to the time spent with our sisters in our healthcare facilities.

These days invite setting aside additional time for this privilege. Our choices reflect our values. Are the people really more important than the paper?

There is also the tending that needs to occur within our leadership teams. The stronger our leadership skills, the more likely it is that we might experience the “rub” of our different styles. These weeks of Lent might lend themselves to varying our prayer styles so that we move out of the ordinary. One of our prayers might include a ritual of “begging pardon” for the ways in which we have hurt one another as we engage in this ministry of leadership. We might pray for the ability to listen more carefully and more sensitively to the differences of opinion we all have. We might pray for the ability to truly welcome the presence of the Spirit as we discern wise decisions.

Jesus spent his entire ministerial life teaching us, by word and by example, how we are to be with one an-

While much of the beauty that is spring comes gratuitously from God, the beauty that is to come can be

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made ready and enhanced if I do the necessary work. The ground can be cleared of weeds and fertilized so that when planting can occur, the soil awaits the seeds and the plants in fertile readiness. The tilled ground enables bulbs to emerge from their seeming grave with greater ease. Washing the grime of winter storms from the windows enables the light to enter my home without the filter of dust and rain stains. These simple things make me feel as though God and I are partnering to showcase all that is to come.

As much as I long for the quick passage of Lent, it will not happen. However, one can always use this time better so that the joy of the resurrection comes, once again, with deeper meaning. In addition to the work of personal transformation that requires my constant tending, there is work as a congregational leader that no one else can do in our places. Just as I feel the urge to cultivate

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other and how we are to be with God. The actions we choose to take may seem very small, but they stretch our hearts, open our spirits, and strip us of a bit of our self-centeredness. This leaves us with much more space to embrace the joy of the resurrection. Happy Easter!

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and Mary Haddad, RSM from the Catholic Health Association.

Both committees discussed the urgent demands facing leaders in religious congregations that are unparalleled in recent history. Women assuming positions of leadership within today's ecclesial and civil milieus must be prepared to give birth to their charism in fresh, authentic ways by responding to contemporary needs even as they attend to expressions of religious life that are waning. LCWR recognizes that women religious leaders need inspiration, education, and support to be the spiritual leaders needed for these times. The conference acknowledges as well that the future of this life form depends upon the strength of its current and future leaders.

As the two committees continue their work, information will be shared with the LCWR membership on an ongoing basis.

All LCWR Members Encouraged to Reflect on Regional Insights

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future. Each region's insights are posted on the LCWR website at www.lcwr.org/what%27snew/new.htm.

All LCWR members are encouraged to reflect together with their teams on these insights. Teams are encouraged to ask themselves 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?

A variation of the contemplative process will be used throughout the 2011 LCWR assembly also, as the conference seeks to communally discern where religious life may be moving in this time of rapid change.



Mystery Unfolding: Religious Life for the World

LCWR Assembly
August 9 - 12 (evening)
(Travel home recommended for August 13)
Garden Grove, California

Assembly Highlights:

- Pre-Assembly Trips to the *Women & Spirit* Exhibit at Mount Saint Mary College, Los Angeles
- Keynote Address by Barbara Reid, OP
- Keynote Address by Maricarmen Bracamontes, OSB
- Address by LCWR President Mary Hughes, OP
- Opportunities for Contemplative Processing of the Assembly Experiences
- Important Updates on the LCWR Contemporary Religious Life Project
- 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.

Younger LCWR Members Express Interest in Networking

Forty-five LCWR members “60ish or younger” completed a recent survey conducted by the conference to ascertain interest in networking among this cohort.

Survey results indicate the following:

- 92.3% are interested in participating in a listserv or other form of electronic networking
- 89.7% are interested in meeting over lunch during the 2011 LCWR assembly
- 92.3 % are interested in interfacing with other young leaders in their geographic area

LCWR board members Ellen Dauwer, SC and Beth Fitzpatrick, O Carm are coordinating the networking efforts. Additional information on these options will be forthcoming.

National Women’s Hall of Fame Honors Katharine Drexel

The National Women’s Hall of Fame chose St. Katharine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, as one of 11 women who have made valuable and enduring contributions to the nation. These women will be inducted into the hall of fame on September 30 and October 1 in Seneca Falls, New York, the birthplace of the US women’s rights movement.



The National Women’s Hall of Fame selects inductees every two years based on their contributions through the arts, athletics, business, education, government, humanities, philanthropy, and science. More information can be found at www.greatwomen.org.

USCCB Associate Director Visits LCWR Offices



Mary Joanna Ruhland, RSM (center) visits with LCWR executive director Jane Burke, SSND and associate director for communications Annmarie Sanders, IHM

Mary Joanna Ruhland, RSM, associate director for the USCCB Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, recently visited the LCWR offices to learn more about the conference and share what her office is doing to support consecrated life in the United States.

LCWR and Women Religious in the News

“As Apostolic Visitation wraps up, congregations feel ‘power of our sisterhood’”
National Catholic Reporter — March 16, 2011
Article by Cheryl Wittenauer
nronline.org/news/apostolic-visitation-wraps-congregations-feel-power-our-sisterhood

“Exhibit tells story of Catholic sisters and their impact on America”
Quad City Times — February, 2011
Article by Alma Gaul
qctimes.com/lifestyles/announcements/article_17d68416-3dee-11e0-ae84-001cc4c002e0.html?oCampaign=hottopics

“Women & Spirit at Ellis Island”
Real to Reel (Television program)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFqt0j-8yWY

LCWR Dreamers Awakened in Systemic Change Think Tank

Thirty-nine LCWR members and justice and peace coordinators shared an enriching, energizing, and challenging experience of the “Awakening the Dreamer” symposium from March 7-10, 2011 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona. Presenters/facilitators Mary Elizabeth Lawrence, SC; Joan Brown, OSF; and Joan Spatti led participants through themes titled: Where are we?; How did we get here?; Current views and unexamined assumptions; The present Earth crisis; What’s possible for the future?; Identifying historical ground; Blessed unrest and action; and Hope committed in action.

Facilitators expanded the symposium, which is being presented by 3,000 trained facilitators around the world, specifically for the LCWR Think Tank of

women religious. Prayer rituals included a sacred table of founders of congregations represented, an outdoor water ritual, and an Ash Wednesday evening candle-light procession to the labyrinth illuminated with small candles.

More conscious of the urgency of action on behalf of Earth and her people, participants committed to taking the messages home in a variety of ways. It was suggested that the symposium can be a way of implementing the 2010 assembly resolution “to strengthen bonds with women religious globally.” Many resources are available on www.awakeningthedreamer.org.

Members also drafted and signed a letter to Arizona Governor Jan Brewer, and copied to Arizona legislators, expressing deep concern about legislation which discriminates against immigrants.



Religious institute leaders and justice and peace coordinators participate in the LCWR systemic change think tank.



WOMEN & *spirit* CATHOLIC SISTERS IN AMERICA

Women & Spirit Documentary Underway



The Women & Spirit documentary team (Helen Garvey, BVM; Mary Dacey, SSJ; Annmarie Sanders, IHM; and Carole Shinnick, SSND) review the film with producers Tim Steinouer and Mellissa Berry at a work session in St. Louis.



The LCWR *Women & Spirit* documentary team met in March to continue the review and editing of the one-hour production. The documentary includes interviews with historians and several women religious from around the country.



A DVD with the documentary as well as a catalogue of all the panels and artifacts in the *Women & Spirit* exhibit will be available for sale.



Among the women religious featured in the documentary are: (clockwise) Karen Kennelly, CSJ; Gail Trippett, CSJ; Miriam Mac-Gillis, OP; and Ann Kendrick, SNDdeN.





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.

Upcoming LCWR Dates

LCWR Assembly
Garden Grove, California
August 9 — 13, 2011

LCWR Leading from Within Retreat
Redemptorist Renewal Center
Tucson, Arizona
January 15 — 20, 2012

LCWR New Leader Workshop
Conference Center - University of St. Mary of the Lake
Mundelein, Illinois
March 15 — 18, 2012

LCWR Assembly
St. Louis, Missouri
August 7 — 11, 2012

LCWR Assembly
Orlando, Florida
August 13 — 17, 2013



- Letter to Congress from WAND (Women's Action for New Directions) urging restraint on military spending in FY 2012 budget and funding for human needs
- Interfaith Working Group on Trade and Investment letter to Congress expressing concerns about the effects of US trade policies on impoverished countries
- Statement of the Coalition of Labor Union Women in support of workers' rights

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.

NCCHCM Sunsets After 22 Years

In a conference call on March 14, members came to a decision to bring the National Coalition on Catholic Health Care Ministry to a close because its original purpose had been fulfilled.

The formation of the coalition in 1989 was preceded by several events. In 1984, major superiors of congregations who sponsored healthcare ministries initiated a national dialogue to address concerns about changes in church and society which were seriously impacting the ministry. In 1986, these religious sponsors, the (then) National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Catholic Health Association (CHA) began a collaborative project to articulate a future vision for the ministry and established a steering committee which in turn appointed the Catholic Health Care Commission. Using a broad consultation process, the commission developed a national vision for the future of the Catholic health-care ministry as well as strategies to advance the vision. In 1988 this work was published in a booklet titled *Catholic Health Ministry: A New Vision for a New Century*.

The commission also called for the formation of a national coalition of organizations to implement the strategies. This coalition became the NCCHCM and was comprised of representatives of the Association of Catholic Health Science Centers, Catholic Charities USA, CHA, CMSM, LCWR and the United States Catholic Conference. The work of the coalition began in December 1989.

During the ensuing years, representation shifted somewhat, and in recent years the organizations represented have been the USCCB, CHA, LCWR, CMSWR, and Catholic Charities. The coalition has met twice a year to carry out the vision strategies. It published *Catholic Health Ministry in Transition, a Handbook for Responsible Leadership* in 1995 (revised in 2003); endorsed the New Covenant Initiative; and provided opportunities for members to share information in areas such as sponsorship, international outreach, healthcare reform, ethical issues, advocacy, and challenges to the ministry.

After reviewing the goals and accomplishments of the NCCHCM, members agreed that the original purpose has been fulfilled. Now attention to healthcare ministry has a firm place within the USCCB structure in the form of a task force of bishops with consultants including Carol Keehan, DC, president and CEO of CHA. The LCWR national office, represented in the coalition by

the associate director for social mission, thanks all the LCWR members who have served so well over the past 22 years.



NRVC Seeks Associate Director for Programs and Resources

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is seeking an associate director for programs and resources. Responsibilities include coordinating and supervising the planning, implementation, and follow-up of workshops, programs, and biennial convention; overseeing the production of NRVC resources; and assisting the executive director in other administrative duties. Skills needed include: organization, planning, budgeting, writing and technology skills, interpersonal and collaborative skills, and knowledge of the Roman Catholic Church and consecrated life. MA required; experience in vocation work preferred. This position is an excellent opportunity to serve the church on a national level. Review of applicants will begin immediately. Please send letter of interest, resume, and references to Paul Bednarczyk, CSC, NRVC, 5401 S. Cornell Ave. #207, Chicago, IL 60615; Fax: 773-363-5530; nrvc@nrvc.net.



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

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Center of Concern Seeks Education for Justice Program Director

The Center of Concern, based in Washington, DC, seeks a director for its prize-winning Education for Justice Project — www.educationforjustice.org. Requirements include an excellent knowledge of Catholic Social Teaching, technical expertise in website management, and a minimum of five years experience at the secondary and adult levels. For a job description go to www.coc.org/node/6660. Applications should be sent to resumes@coc.org.

USCMA Announces Annual Mission Congress

The United States Catholic Mission Congress will hold its annual conference October 28-30, 2011 in Miami, Florida. Titled “Push out into the deep...,” the conference will feature keynote speakers Miguel Diaz, US ambassador to the Holy See; Steve Bevans, SVD, professor of mission and culture at the Catholic Theological Union; and Madge Karecki, SSJ-TOSE, director of the Office for Mission Education and Animation of the Archdiocese of Chicago. Seven dialogue sessions are also on the agenda. For further information and registration contact uscma@uscatholicmission.org.